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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 181

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

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## Trial for former law clerk begins



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Former Superior Court law clerk William Abraczinkas walks out after Day 1 of his jury trial yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The jury trial for a former CNMI Superior Court law clerk accused of raping a co-worker began yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.

William Abraczinkas, formerly employed as a law clerk with Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, appeared before judge pro tem Elyze M. Iriarte yesterday along

with his defense attorneys Charlene Brown and Katie Comstock. On the prosecution side, representing the CNMI government were Chief

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## HSEM closely monitoring Invest 95W



MARK RABAGO

Garapan was drenched by rain late afternoon yesterday as tropical disturbance Invest 95W heads to a path near or over Guam, according to the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is closely monitoring the developing tropical disturbance identified by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center as Invest 95W.

According to the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, Invest 95W will pass through the

region near, or over, Guam as a tropical depression, sometime this afternoon to tonight. No tropical storm or typhoon watches or warnings are issued for the CNMI. According to the NWS, it is nearly certain that Invest 95W will not be a typhoon when it passes through

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## Pangelinan is 2024 Miss Earth Northern Marianas



RACQUEL FLOYD

Heavenly Divine Aldan Pangelinan was crowned 2024 Miss Earth Northern Marianas last Thursday at the conference room of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD  
raxifloyd@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Heavenly Divine Aldan Pangelinan was named 2024 Miss Earth Northern Marianas last Thursday afternoon at the conference room of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Pangelinan, an 18-year-old from Kagman and a sophomore student at Western Governors University majoring in Business Administration Management, succeeds 2023 Miss Earth Northern Marianas Jan Zowie Cruz.

According to Exquisite Pro- See EARTH on Page 4

## Pope to bring in ton of humanitarian aid to remote PNG as he celebrates periphery

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—Pope Francis honored the Catholic Church of the peripheries on Sunday as he celebrated Mass in Papua New Guinea before heading to a remote part of the South Pacific nation with a ton of humanitarian aid to deliver to the missionaries and faithful who live there.

An estimated 35,000 people filled the stadium in the capital Port Moresby for the

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AP

Pope Francis, flanked by Archbishop Diego Ravelli, right, presides over the Sunday mass at the Sir John Guise Stadium in Port Moresby, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024.

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Key stakeholders, including educators, advocates, and community leaders, convened last Sept. 6 as part of Project Higai, a State Personnel Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Program of the Public School System.

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### WORLD

Ukraine needs the ability to strike deep within Russia now, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told U.S. and allied military leaders Friday.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Top nominee "Shogun" won a staggering 14 awards in a near-sweep Sunday night at the Creative Arts Emmys, while "The Bear" won seven including guest actress in a comedy series for Jamie Lee Curtis.

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# Local

## Community Guidance Center unveils Blue Ribbon Initiative

In a display of community solidarity, local officials, healthcare providers, and community members gathered on Sept. 4, 2024, at Kensington Hotel Saipan to launch the Blue Ribbon Initiative, a comprehensive effort to address mental health challenges in our community. The event, which coincided with both National Recovery Month and National Suicide Prevention Month, featured the signing of a proclamation, strengthening the community's commitment to mental health awareness and support.

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, together with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña, and the CHCC Community Guidance Center, signed a proclamation officially recognizing September as both Recovery Month and Suicide Prevention Month in the CNMI. The signing ceremony is the beginning of a month-long campaign to raise awareness and promote resources for mental health and substance abuse recovery.

CGC administrator for the Addiction Service Unit, Jo-



Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, fifth from left, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña hold up the proclamation designating September as National Recovery Month and National Suicide Prevention Month last Thursday at Kensington Hotel Saipan.

seph Kevin Villagomez, stated that a community-wide "needs assessment" was conducted prior to the proclamation signing. It was determined from this survey that the stigma around mental health and substance use continue to prevent people from seeking help even

when available.

"We still have much to do," Villagomez says. "One of the main focuses in today's meeting, is to bring attention to the drug fentanyl."

Villagomez explains that education for every member of the community is very im-

portant for they need to know how the drug looks like and how someone who is on this drug acts and what are needed interventions to prevent deaths. "It is especially important to work with our frontliners, Department of Public Safety and Department of Fire

and Emergency Medical Services officers in particular who will most likely be the one that will reach those in crisis first," Villagomez added.

The Blue Ribbon Initiative Consortium will continue its work beyond September, with plans to present a comprehensive action plans for the community all throughout the future.

"We affirm the belief that mental health is an essential part of overall health," Apatang stated. "Together, we forge a commitment to supporting and empowering all citizens of the Commonwealth to seek the care they need. By fostering a culture of understanding and compassion, we strive to break down the barriers of stigma and silence, ensuring that no one feels alone in their journey towards well-being."

For more information on Recovery Month and Suicide Prevention Month events, or to access mental health resources, residents are encouraged to visit the CHCC website and social medias for more information.

The CHCC Community Guidance Center provides interventions and crisis counseling services for people may need assistance with relation behavioral health problems or someone who is going through mental health related distress—whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.

If you or loved one needs support now, call the Crisis Hotline at 9-8-8. (PR)

## Chamber hosts US delegate debate on Sept. 17

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce its signature event, the U.S. delegate of the CNMI debate. The event will bring together all candidates running for the CNMI's delegate seat in the U.S. Congress to debate the pressing issues facing our community and share their vision for the future.

### Event details:

- Date: Sept. 17, 2024
- Time: 6pm (doors open 5:30pm)
- Location: Pedro P. Tenoerio Multi-Purpose Center, Suite 201-A
- Tickets are \$10 per person, get your tickets today by visiting the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office conveniently located on the 2nd floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 201-A.

The Chamber is still accepting questions from the general public, which may be asked during the debate. This is an opportunity for CNMI residents to engage directly with the candidates on issues such as economic recovery, healthcare, public safety, education, and more. Questions can be submitted through

<https://forms.gle/WfC1vd-byYtPpnQhR7> no later than Sept. 11, 2024.

Don't miss this chance to be part of an important dialogue about the future of the CNMI. Purchase your tickets today, and let your voice be heard by submitting questions for the candidates.

For more information on tickets and how to submit your questions, please contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150 or contact [contactus@saipanchamber.org](mailto:contactus@saipanchamber.org).

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization with over 130 members to date. The Chamber was founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976. It is the largest private business organization in the CNMI. The Chamber works to promote and protect the business, economic, and civic interest, and general health and welfare of our islands. If you would like more information about our event or our organization, visit its office located at the Marianas Business Plaza, 2nd Floor, Suite 201-A or contact our office at (670) 234-7150, or email [contactus@saipanchamber.org](mailto:contactus@saipanchamber.org). (PR)



Limited Time

# Breakfast Bagels

Pair your meal with a

## Pumpkin Spice Iced Coffee!



Pumpkin Iced Coffee



Steak, Egg & Cheese Bagel



Sausage, Egg & Cheese Bagel



Bacon, Egg & Cheese Bagel

©2024 McDonald's. Bagel served before 10:30 a.m.



## STORE HOURS

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# NMC students explore Taiwan's innovative agricultural landscape



NMC

Northern Marianas College student Jude Litulimar engages with Hipoint technical manager Hsin-Cheng Chen on how to use smart agriculture for phenotyping and image processing.

Three students from the Northern Marianas College participated in the Future of Agriculture Study Abroad program in Taiwan, which was a 15-day course held on the campus of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology through the University of Guam's College of Natural & Applied sciences in July.

Throughout the experiential learning field trip, the participants had an opportunity to visit industries in Kaohsiung, Taichung, Pingtung City, and Taipei, Taiwan. They engaged with industry experts and farmers to understand global agricultural trends while attending lectures about the fundamentals of agriculture and

how agricultural practices are currently advancing.

The students also gained hands-on field practice in building a high tunnel greenhouse, irrigation techniques, and fertilizer application.

The students explored the latest research on agricultural implements, crop pest management, biological control, and broadened their understanding of the importance of value-added products through visits to agri-tourism industries.

This trip was a valuable experience for participants to broaden their knowledge in the field of agriculture. NMC student Rosemarie Faisao shared her preparations for the experiential learning field

trip, sharing, "Before we left, I researched agriculture in Taiwan, and what I learned online was further deepened through hands-on experiences, understanding farming from the soil to our tables at home."

Karim Johnson, NextGen Program manager, expressed her satisfaction in her scholars, sharing, "Our NMC NextGen scholars, again prove that no matter how far they venture geographically or academically, they are fully capable and willing to rise to the occasion. They never sink. Instead, they rise eagerly to the forefront to learn and gather seeds of knowledge to bring home."

"Our NMC students are learning abroad, while also sharing the knowledge and wisdom that they've gained through living in the Marianas and studying at NMC," stated NMC-CREES interim dean Patty Coleman.

With the knowledge gained from experiential learning field trips, the three students produced a collaborative re-

port comparing agricultural, natural resource management, and agritourism practices observed across the NextGen experiential learning field trips and used this analysis to reflect upon which methods and strategies they believe will benefit the CNMI.

This experiential learning field trip was conducted by the NMC-CREES NextGen Program in partnership with the University of Guam, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (Ministry of Agriculture),

with trips to various companies such as HiPoint, Known You Seed Company, and Hon-hui Group.

For more information about this trip or NMC NextGen program, contact Karim Johnson at karim.johnson@marianas.edu, or call (670) 488-0801/8. **(PR)**



NMC

Northern Marianas College students with NMC Next-Gen Program manager Karim Johnson, second from right.

## Empowering young minds: After-School Reading & Homework Help Program provided at JKPL

Need help with your reading and other assignments? We are delighted to welcome children ages 6-12 to our JKPL Children's After School Reading and Homework Help Program. Sessions are available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30pm to 5pm. Limited seats! Registration is required and must have a valid library card. Deadline to register is Sept. 17, 2024 until full. Session begins Sept. 19, 2024. Contact Celina Foreman for more information at (670) 235-7315.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at [www.cnmlib.org](http://www.cnmlib.org) like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joetenkiyu public library or visit our website [www.cnmlib.org](http://www.cnmlib.org) to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Open Tuesday to Thurs-

day 10am to 6pm, Friday 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and Holidays. Closed for JKPL Austerity on the following Saturdays: Sept. 14 and 28, 2024

### How can you help assist with our programs?

We welcome and encourage businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit. Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-256853-OLS-24.

This project was made possible in part by the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is an equal opportunity provider and employer. **(PR)**

Name: Georgena Aldan Dela Cruz  
Address: P.O. Box 503491 Saipan, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 483-7449  
Pro Se

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for:

L.Z.P.C. NOTICE OF HEARING  
Minor Child(ren)

By:

Don Joseph C. Omar and Georgena A. Dela Cruz  
Petitioner(s)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 24th day of June, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-24-025

#### S-11 & S-12 SEWER LIFT STATION RELOCATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the relocation of the existing S-11 & S-12 sewer lift station; relocation of wet well; relocation of valve and flow meter stations; installation of new pumps and accessories; and renovation of the existing generator building. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-24-025, S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 1, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided bid forms. Bidders are required to complete all bid forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (CHST) on September 10, 2024 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org), with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer, at email [alley.reyes@cucgov.org](mailto:alley.reyes@cucgov.org), and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician Senior via email, [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Officer



TRIAL

From page 1

Prosecutor Chester Hinds and assistant attorney general Frances De-mapan. Currently facing charges of sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, Abraczinkas had denied the allegations and maintained that he is not guilty.

After a lengthy jury selection, eight members of the community were selected, two men and six women, and being that there was only time left for opening statements, both parties proceeded to address the jury.

In his opening statements Hinds divulged the gruesome details of rape mentioned in the allegations from the victim. Her devotion to her job of 20 years, and her church, and her mother. How she was a mother and grandmother, and how she had found and hired Abraczinkas as a law clerk for Govendo. The two had allegedly communicated for three months through email before Abraczinkas came to Saipan, with the alleged victim helping him prepare for the job on Saipan. “During this process a friendship developed. A work friendship.” Hinds said that Abraczinkas asked for help to secure an apartment, mailbox, and car.

Hinds pointed out that the victim had gone beyond her normal hiring duties, to inviting Abraczinkas for dinner with her family, sharing a mailbox with him, and helped him get around the island. She also per-

sonally helped him find a car, and apartment, all in an effort to make Abraczinkas feel at home.

“She knew the sooner the defendant got settled the sooner the court would function better. When she helped the defendant, it was because of that, because of her dedication to the court and her judge. Also, she helped the defendant as a friend. A work friend.”

Hinds described that on April 8, 2023, what should’ve been a simple mail drop off became more than that as the defendant allegedly coaxed the alleged victim to swim despite her hesitation and initial decline. According to the woman, an intoxicated Abraczinkas overpowered her and violated her after she had just taken a shower at his apartment.

Hinds shared the trauma that followed. “She couldn’t deal with the way the defendant acted and after a series of incidents at work, she made it clear to the defendant that she was drawing a line.”

Hinds stated that was what led to the allegations

“When this happened, the defendant thought that [the alleged victim] may say something about what happened. The defendant reacted by making a sexual harassment complaint against [her] the same weekend he raped her. You will see this complaint and you will see from the evidence that this complaint is full of lies.”

Following the prosecution, the defense admonished the jury to pay attention to each detail of the case, and

make note of some seemingly questionable reactions of the alleged victim hours after her accusation, versus her actual accusation.

Comstock told the jury, “This was her first time being so involved in the hiring process.” Pointed out that upon his arrival she took him to the bank to set up an account and to the phone store to activate his phone, as well as finding a car. According to the defense, Abraczinkas knew the alleged victim was a widow.

“Will encouraged her to get out and have fun, she sent him videos of her out dancing, he joked with her saying ‘good for you.’ She stated that Abraczinkas didn’t know that the alleged victim would later tell officers that she thought they could have an “intimate relationship.”

Comstock told the jury that the alleged victim when making her case told officers that during the assault she feared for her life.

“She thought she was going to die she thought William was going to kill her! And yet you’ll see some more texts that come in the weeks following this event where she thought she was going to be killed by William Abraczinkas.”

Comstock told the jury that following her violent accusations and what she had told the cops about her trauma and emotional downs, the alleged victim suddenly remembers that she had left Abraczinkas’ car headlights on.

“So, within an hour of being

supposedly violently raped she’s messaging him ‘I tried to wake you up, but I couldn’t wake you up, I hope you see this in time, your lights are on.’”

Comstock shared that the two communicated in a friendly manner over text, with the woman agreeing to come back to the alleged crime scene to jumpstart his car upon his request.

“Not only does she come and help

him jump start his car, they see each other Sunday night and watch television together. Monday morning, she has text messages for him with a lot of directions on what he needs to do for work, he responds with ‘LOL you bossy,’ to which she replied ‘time to work, cougar.’”

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

POPE

From page 1

morning Mass. It began with dancers in grass skirts and feathered head-dresses performing to traditional drum beats as priests in green vestments processed up onto the altar.

In his homily, Francis told the crowd that they may well feel themselves distant from both their faith and the institutional church, but that God was near to them.

“You who live on this large island in the Pacific Ocean may sometimes have thought of yourselves as a far away and distant land, situated at the edge of the world,” Francis said. “Yet ... today the Lord wants to draw near to you, to break down distances, to let you know that you are at the center of his heart and that each one of you is important to him.”

Francis was himself traveling to a distant land on Sunday, flying into remote Vanimo, on Papua New Guinea’s northwest coast, to meet with the small Catholic community there served by missionaries from his native Argentina.

Francis was being transported by an Australian military aircraft and was bringing with him one ton of humanitarian aid, including medicine, clothes and toys for children, according to Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni.

Eight suitcases of medicine and other necessities had been prepared

by one of the Argentine missionaries, the Rev. Alejandro Diaz, during a recent trip to Rome and left with the Vatican to bring in on the cargo plane, the ANSA news agency reported.

Francis has long prioritized the church on the “peripheries,” saying it is actually more important than the center of the institutional church. In keeping with that philosophy, Francis has largely shunned foreign trips to European capitals, preferring instead far-flung communities where Catholics are often a minority.

Vanimo, population 11,000, certainly fits the bill. Located near Papua New Guinea’s border with Indonesia, the coastal city is perhaps best known as a surfing destination.

Francis, history’s first Latin American pope, has also had a special affinity for the work of Catholic missionaries. As a young Argentine Jesuit, he had hoped to serve as a missionary in Japan, but was prevented from going because of his poor health.

Now as pope, he has often held up missionaries as models for the church, especially those who have sacrificed to bring the faith to far-flung places.

Francis’ visit to Vanimo was the highlight of his visit to Papua New Guinea, the second leg of his four-nation tour of Southeast Asia and Oceania. After first stopping in Indonesia, Francis heads on Monday to East Timor and then wraps up his visit in Singapore later in the week.

EARTH

From page 1

ductions Marianas, Inc. owner Dee Clayton, the Miss Earth competition is usually held in December. However, organizers decided to do the Miss Earth 2024 pageant on Nov. 9 at Okada Manila in the Philippines. Because of this decision, no pageant was held in the Northern Marianas due to lack of time.

“I don’t have the time to organize the pageant. So, I’m hoping that next year I’m going to do it early so that next year, there will be a pageant,” said Clayton.

Pangelinan, who is currently a substitute teacher aide at San Vicente Elementary School, was selected through her application in 2022 because Clayton said she appoints candidates who placed from that year’s pageant since there were no Miss Earth Northern Marianas pageants in the past years.

The Miss Earth Northern Marianas board of directors did the selection process, wherein they needed to vote for the best candidate to represent the CNMI based on knowledge of the environment, height, and age.

Clayton mentioned that there were four candidates considered, but the other three were unable to participate for various reasons.

Meanwhile, Cruz reflected on her journey as 2023 Miss Earth Northern Marianas. She expressed her gratitude while being a bit emotional for a year filled with highs and lows.

She highlighted her advocacy for a greener and more sustainable future

through various initiatives, aiming to contribute to the planet’s well-being and inspire positive change.

She especially mentioned pageant coach Bench Legaspi for being her source of strength. Cruz acknowledged Legaspi for his positive influence on her growth and development.

Before passing her crown to Pangelinan, Cruz ended her speech by encouraging her to use her voice as a powerful tool for the future and challenges should be seen as opportunities, growth, and impact.

“From one queen to another, I will be here to support you as you embark on this new adventure. This may be the end of my chapter, but I hope it opens the doors to yours. With that being said, thank you everyone for this incredible experience,” said Cruz.

Saipan Mayor Ramon “RB” B. Camacho pinned the sash on Pangelinan and the 2024 Miss Earth Northern Marianas thanked her family and friends for their support.

She acknowledged her lack of formal education in environmental science, but said she desires to contribute positively to the community.

“I want to do whatever I can do to get back to our community and make a positive change,” she said.

Camacho is committed to supporting Pangelinan and providing the necessary financial assistance.

“The mayor is backing you 100%, so anything you need for the mayor to assist you, please let me know because this thing is about the community,” said Camacho.

The passing of the crown and pinning of sash ceremony was also

attended by Camacho’s chief of staff Priscilla Iakopo, Sen. Dennis Mendiola (R-Rota), and family and friends of the new reigning Miss Earth Northern Marianas.

The ceremony was opened by Iakopo who said that the Miss Earth pageant aims to promote environmental awareness and protection.

“Because many people admire and aspire to be a beauty queen, Carousel Productions, Inc. believed beauty queens would be a good and effective advocate of worthy causes,” she said.

Iakopo explained that the candidates and winners actively participate in environmental preservation activities. She added that the pageant also showcases various tourist destinations annually.

“Every year, 80-90 candidates from all over the world compete on beauty and knowledge of environmental issues. The winner of Miss Earth will serve as the ambassador to environmental protection campaigns worldwide,” said Iakopo.

In an interview after her appointment, Pangelinan said she heard the news of her selection a week ago.

Asked how she felt representing the Northern Marianas, she said, “It feels rewarding and very grateful, and it makes me more motivated to help our community...I’m a bit nervous, but I’m mostly excited because I really want to give back to my community and do the most that I can to change it,” she said.

Clayton said Legaspi will be the one to train Pangelinan and yesterday they already started shooting her videos for gowns and bathing suits.

HSEM

From page 1

the Marianas. Nor will it be a tropical storm, at this point. The CNMI will likely see stronger winds with the passage of this system.

A flood watch is in effect for the potential of 4 to 8 inches of rain. This is likely to be a multi-day rain event with possible moderate to heavy showers during the passage of Invest 95W through the Marianas, followed by a wet monsoon pattern for the last half of the week. Localized flooding is possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas; flash flooding could also be possible in other areas.

A small craft advisory is in effect for the CNMI. Winds and seas are expected to become hazardous to small crafts on the coastal waters as Invest 95W passes through the region.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management recommends that the community take standard preparedness precautions to ensure the safety of their families and property.

Preparedness tips:

- 1. Stay informed
  - Monitor weather updates: Stay

tuned to official sources such as the National Weather Service (Guam) and the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management State Warning Point for regular updates on Invest 95W’s development.

2. Protect your home

■ Secure outdoor items: Remove or secure any outdoor tents, canopies, tarps, furniture, tools, or loose items and any objects that could be carried by strong gusty winds.

■ Windows and doors: Prepare to close and secure all doors and windows from potential rain.

■ Flood protection: If you live in a flood-prone area, be aware of the potential flooding.

For additional information:

■ Follow National Weather Service (Guam) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/>.

■ Follow the Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/>.

For more information or any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Office Homeland Security and Emergency Management public information officer Bernard Villagomez at (670) 287-7106 or [b.villagomez@cnmihsem.gov.mp](mailto:b.villagomez@cnmihsem.gov.mp). (PR)



# Temporary road closure for Lower Miha extended to Oct. 31

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to notify the general public of the ongoing sewer line replacement construction along Adetfa Street in Lower Miha Village, Garapan. The temporary road closure, initially scheduled to end on Aug. 31, 2024 has been extended to Oct. 31, 2024, due to inclement weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

CUC's contractor, Hong Ye Construction, will continue

temporarily closing Adetfa Street and Kalachucha Avenue to replace the existing ACP sewer line and establish a new route. This project also involves reconnecting

residences affected by the construction. The temporary road closure hours are from 6am to 7pm, with possible adjustments based on tide level and existing hard rock

conditions of the trench, affecting the groundwater level, and interfering with the construction work.

Detour signs are displayed to inform the traveling public

of the restrictions. Customers in the area will not experience any disruption to their power, water, or wastewater services as a result of the work.

The Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide a more reliable sewer system to the CNMI. The transition work is part of the decommissioning of the old sewer line and will be replaced with PVC pipes.

CUC encourages the

public to avoid these areas during construction and appreciates your cooperation in accommodating the traffic restrictions necessary to complete this critical infrastructure improvement project for our customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. (PR)

## Sewer line cleaning for all central lift stations on Sept. 9-13

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public of upcoming sewer line cleaning for all central lift stations from Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, through Friday, Sept. 13, 2024.

Details of the project are the following:

■ Sewer line cleaning time: 7:30am-4:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Garapan, Beach Road, Gualo Rai, and Navy Hill.

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: S-4, S-5, S-6, S-8, S-9, S-10, S-11, and S-12

■ Purpose: To allow CUC Wastewater operators to perform sewer line cleaning, removing blockages, preventing buildup, and maintaining the long-term integrity of CUC's sewer systems.

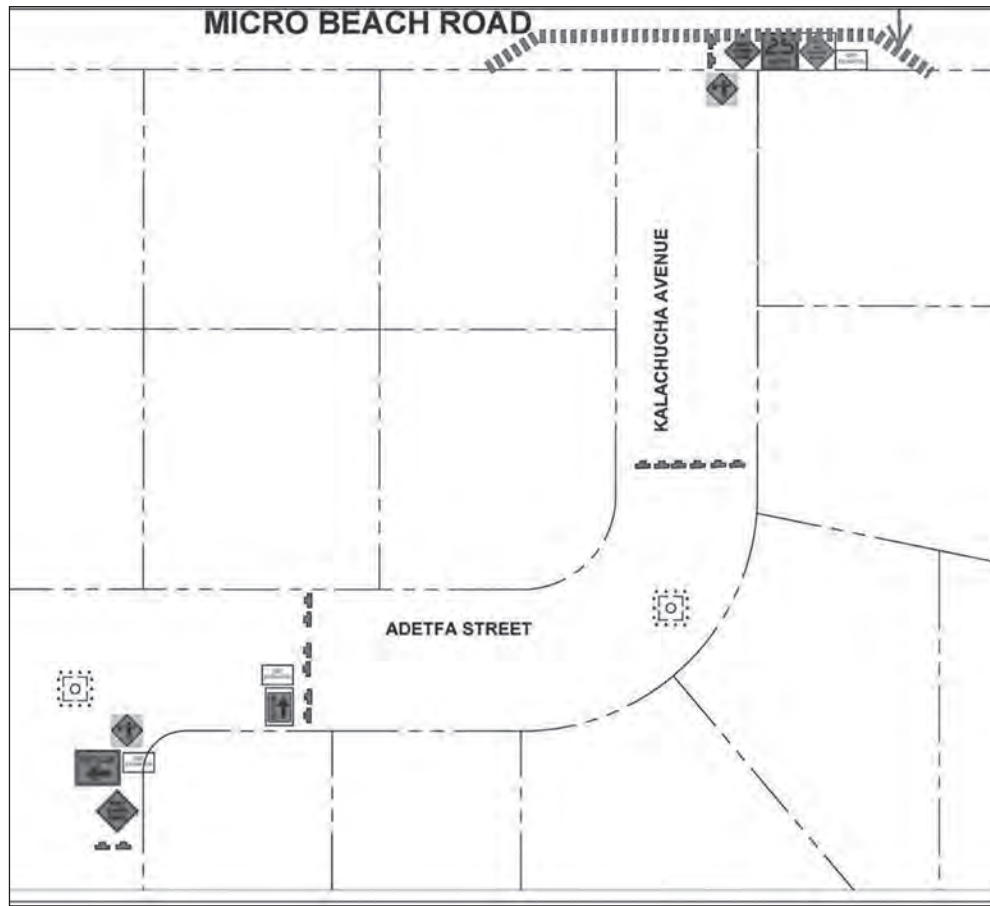
For the safety of CUC operators, certain roadways may be closed during the cleaning period to allow path for wastewater equipment and the operators to access the manholes.

Motorists are advised to reduce speed and exercise caution while driving in the area or take alternative routes.

CUC will employ various sewer line cleaning methods, including hydro jetting, Vac-Con pumping, mechanical snaking, chemical and enzyme drain cleaners, and professional inspections. Regular sewer line maintenance is crucial to preventing blockages and buildup which can cause unpleasant odors, slow drains, and sewage backup.

CUC appreciates the community's cooperation and understanding as it conducts these sewer line cleanings efficiently while minimizing disruption to its customers' daily activities.

For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. (PR)



The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s ongoing sewer line replacement construction along Adetfa Street in Lower Miha Village, Garapan.



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION Office of the Executive Director

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS **CUC-RFP-24-033** WAREHOUSE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of warehouse space for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed warehouse space must comply with DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulations.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set followed by completion of registration with the CUC Procurement & Supply.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-24-033, Warehouse Space Lease for CUC Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time. Late submissions will not be considered.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements during Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, pay any cost incurred in preparing the proposal under this request, or procure our contract for services.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 17, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Pepe Liwanag, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email at [pepe.liwanag@cucgov.org](mailto:pepe.liwanag@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery  
(CDBG-DR) Program

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-022	CDBG-DR Construction Inspector (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$28,875.00 Per Annum	September 4, 2024	September 19, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) and [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com).

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net).

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ Zenie P. Mafnas  
Corporate Director



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400147

SUBMISSION DATE: October 11, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

### "Agatan Stream/South Achugao Drainage Improvements."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **September 10, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on October 07, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL  
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.  
Acting Director, Division of  
Procurement Services



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 181

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Mark Rabago** EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## While Biden tanned, Hamas brutally murdered an American hostage

**A**merican weakness gets Americans killed. That's a running theme of the Biden-Harris administration.

On Saturday, the civilized world mourned after learning that Hamas had brutally murdered six hostages it kidnapped during the Oct. 7 terror attack. The Israeli military found the bodies in a tunnel below Rafah. Among the deceased was Hersh Goldberg-Polin, an Israeli American. His parents, Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg-Polin, worked tirelessly in calling for their son's release. They even spoke at the Democratic National Convention.

Both President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris put out statements expressing their outrage.

"We will keep working around the clock for a deal to secure the release of the remaining hostages," Biden said in his statement.

The pictures of Biden relaxing on the beach in Rehoboth, Delaware, late last month tell a different story. While a president is never off the clock, it's fair to wonder how engaged Biden has been in world affairs. His public schedule has been meager. His infrequent appearances don't inspire confidence in his mental acuity. His results have been terrible.

The biggest problem is that Biden and Harris have long taken the wrong approach to dealing with Hamas. When people or countries share values, compromise is possible, even preferable. You can look for common ground and find mutually beneficial solutions. You may even give in a bit to preserve the relationship.

That isn't advisable or even practical when one party in the negotiations wants to annihilate the other side. And that's the case here.

"Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it," Hamas' 1988 charter states.

"We love death more than you love life," Hamas leader Mohammed Deif said a decade ago.

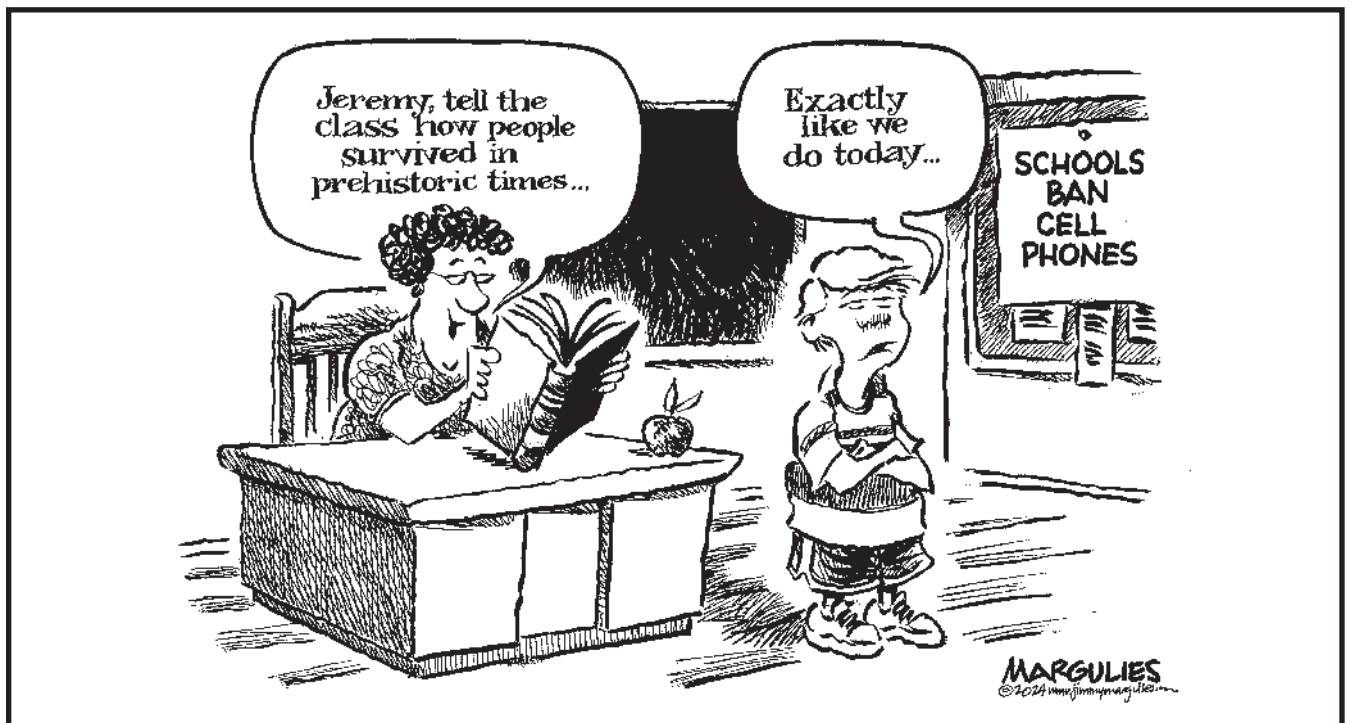
Yet Biden keeps undercutting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On Monday, Biden said he didn't think the Israeli leader was doing enough to bring the hostages home. Talk about creating a perverse incentive. Biden gave Hamas a propaganda victory after it murdered an American.

"The threat Hamas poses to the people of Israel—and American citizens in Israel—must be eliminated," Harris said in her statement.

Agreed. So why hasn't the Biden-Harris administration already done it?

Biden likes to portray himself as sympathizer-in-chief. Right now, the country—and the Americans still held hostage by Hamas—need him to be commander in chief. Use the world's most powerful military to free the hostages or use it to end Hamas once and for all.

©2024 Las Vegas Review-Journal.



## Why Trump's 'leave it to the states' abortion stance ties him in knots

**W**atching Donald Trump regularly twist himself into a pretzel to reach a politically safe position on abortion rights would be comical if the issue weren't so serious for the lives of countless women.

In any case, his political gymnastics are doomed; Trump can't stick this landing. He is, after all, the former president whose three Supreme Court appointees made possible the decidedly unpopular Dobbs ruling, which two years ago overturned what had been a constitutional right for women for a half-century. Democrats have reaped electoral benefits ever since, and this year looks no different.

But Trump thought he'd struck just the right stance in April. That's when he released a 4½-minute video in which he asserted that abortion policy was now up to each of the separate states. Months later he still rotely repeats that line like a mantra, as if what a prospective president thinks doesn't matter. Next question. (So much for "I alone can fix it.")

"The federal government should have nothing to do with this issue and it's being solved at the state level. And people are very happy about it," he told a CBS News reporter last month.

Except "it" isn't being solved, and people aren't happy.

That inconvenient truth could do as much as anything to keep Trump from winning another term in the White House. His flip-flopping is only making his situation worse: He has enraged his antiabortion base as well as abortion rights supporters by his efforts to wash his hands of the issue. The latter are champing at the bit to vote against him; the former could become demoralized enough to stay home. Trump is "suppressing his own support," as one evangelical leader said.

Trump's facile states-rights line doesn't cut it when he's asked about the latest total or near-ban in a Republican-run state, the latest antiabortion ruling from a Trump-appointed federal judge or the latest horror story about a pregnant woman who nearly died after she was denied a needed abortion.

Trump's mantra makes no sense when not only state courts but federal courts are being asked to rule on legal issues spawned in the Dobbs fallout. In June, the Supreme Court unanimously set aside rulings from a Trump district judge in Texas and a conservative appeals court taking aim at the abortion drug mifepristone. The justices ruled on a technicality, however, and Republican officials in three red states are pursuing another challenge against the drug that is now used for nearly two-thirds of abortions.

And Trump's "it's up to the states" doesn't satisfy his erstwhile antiabortion allies now demanding a federal ban. They are infuriated that blue states are strengthening their abortion rights, including protections for doctors and others who help women from other states get abortions, and they know that women in states with bans are getting abortion drugs by mail.

Trump can't duck the abortion issue. It is a federal matter. Still, he tries, making a fool of himself.

He continues to boast that he ended Roe with his Supreme Court picks, yet two weeks ago claimed that a second Trump administration would be "great for women and their reproductive

By **JACKIE CALMES**

Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



rights." As president in 2018, he lauded House Republicans for voting to ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, and months ago he mused about backing a national ban after 15 weeks or maybe 16 weeks, but now he wants us to believe he'd never sign such a bill. He insists that Republicans support IVF treatments — last week he even proposed that the government or insurers should foot the bill — yet some Trump-loving states now have "personhood" laws giving embryos legal status, imperiling IVF practices. Democrats are the extreme party, he lies, because they even support "execution after birth."

And last week, after months of evasion, Trump said he'd vote for a ballot measure in his home state of Florida that would restore abortion rights, then switched the next day, after conservatives' backlash, to oppose it. If the measure fails, Florida would retain a near-total ban on abortion after six-weeks gestation, when some women don't yet know they're pregnant. Only last spring, he'd called the Florida law "a terrible mistake" for being too extreme and politically risky.

Not for nothing did NBC News post an article earlier this year headlined "A timeline of Trump's many, many positions on abortion." It went from his 1999 claim to be "very pro-choice," through his "I am pro-life" profession at a conservative conference in 2011 and his 2016 contention, quickly rescinded, that "there has to be some form of punishment" for women who get abortions, and all the way through his current gyrations.

In April, he twice told Time magazine that in two weeks he'd propose how to regulate mifepristone; that policy paper must be lost with the anti-Obamacare health-insurance alternative he's promised "in two weeks" for years. In May he told a Pittsburgh TV interviewer he'd "very shortly" announce restrictions on contraceptives; very shortly he backtracked.

As Kamala Harris says, Trump is an unserious man, but his election would have extremely serious consequences. He is the epitome of male politicians who oppose abortion rights purely for politics, without a thought to the real-life ramifications for women. He was a proudly promiscuous peacock for decades, grabbing women by another p-word, and if we're to believe Stormy Daniels—I do—he wouldn't use a condom. Responsibility is only for women.

Well, then, the responsible thing for women to do now, along with men who support them, is to keep Trump from ever again being described as that other p-word: president.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## The Paralympics are a unique manifestation of global cooperation

In a world increasingly marked by polarization and rising nationalism, the Paralympic Games stand as a vital symbol of the rules-based liberal international order.

Despite the growing controversy and challenges that surround the Olympics, these Games continue to represent an enduring commitment to global cooperation, inclusivity and shared human values. The Olympics—and perhaps more importantly the Paralympics—must continue, not merely as a sporting event but as a testament to the principles that underpin a just and cooperative global society.

The Olympics, since their inception, have been about more than just athletic prowess; they are a celebration of global unity. The Games bring together nations from every corner of the globe, transcending political, cultural and economic boundaries and—in the case of the Paralympics—(dis)ability, perhaps more successfully than any other modern organization. This collective gathering underscores the core tenets of the rules-based international order: respect for the sovereignty of states, peaceful cooperation and mutual understanding.

In an era in which geopolitical tensions often threaten to drive nations apart, the Paralympics provide a rare and valuable opportunity for countries to come together. Athletes from diverse backgrounds compete not only for personal glory but also for the honor of their nations, fostering a sense of shared purpose

and common humanity. This unity is a powerful counterpoint to the isolationist and divisive tendencies that characterize much of contemporary geopolitics.

The Games are designed to be a platform where athletes from all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender or nationality, can compete on an equal footing. The Games serve as a reminder that the pursuit of equality and justice is a continuous journey and that the global community must strive to address disparities and promote inclusivity in all aspects of society.

The Olympics are a unique manifestation of global cooperation, involving a complex network of international organizations, national committees and local communities working together to make the Games possible. This collaboration extends beyond the event itself, fostering relationships among nations and creating a shared sense of responsibility for the successful execution of the Games.

The Games demonstrate that despite differences and disagreements, nations can work together toward a common goal. This spirit of cooperation is crucial for addressing global challenges such as climate change, public health crises and economic inequality. The Olympics, in their way, are a microcosm of how international collaboration can lead to positive outcomes and shared progress.

It is undeniable that the Olympics face significant controversies and challenges. Issues such as exorbitant costs, environmental impacts and allegations of corruption have cast a shadow over the Games. These problems are not insignificant and must be addressed head on with transparency and reform. However, the existence of these issues does not negate the fundamental value of the Olympics; rather, they highlight the need for continued vigilance and improvement.

The rules-based international order is not about perfection but about striving toward ideals and addressing shortcomings. Just as the Paralympics themselves evolve to address new challenges,

By **ANDREW HEFFERNAN**

Chicago Tribune

*Andrew Heffernan is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation's Digital Policy Hub. He is a part-time professor of international relations and comparative politics at the University of Ottawa, where he also holds a doctorate in political science.*



es, the international community must adapt and reform to meet contemporary needs. The ongoing dialogue about the future of the Games and the efforts to address their controversies reflect a broader commitment to improvement and accountability, essential elements of a functioning and dynamic global system.

In a time when global challenges can seem overwhelming, the Paralympics offer a hopeful vision of what is possible when people come together across borders and differences. Finally, the spirit of the Olympics—embodied in the Olympic Charter's commitment to building a peaceful and better world through sport—serves as a guiding principle for the international community. This spirit transcends the controversies and problems associated with the Games, offering a vision of global solidarity and mutual respect.

The Paralympics must continue not only as a celebration of athletic excellence but also as a symbol of the enduring values that support the global community. By addressing their challenges and continuing to promote these values, the Games reaffirm their role as a beacon of hope and a testament to the potential of a cooperative global society.

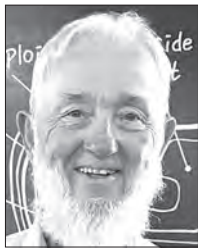
## Between the immensities

### LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.*



I haven't written a "sonnetina" in a while. A "sonnetina" is my poetic use of the three-form sonata with a sonnet as the development or central part. 'The basic elements of musical sonata form are three: exposition, development, and recapitulation, in which the musical subject matter is stated, explored or expanded, and restated.' In my case a sonnet is the development, and a limerick is the coda or recapitulation.

The exposition is from The Fugs song "Life Is Funny." The Fugs were an American rock band formed in the Lower East Side of NYC in 1964. Their music has been called "protopunk" and avant-rock noise music.

### I'm just laughing to keep from crying

Exposition:

"Life is funny, life is free, got all them goodies coming to me, it's so funny I could cry, it's so funny you could die, it's so funny..."

Development:

Just when you think you will, you won't  
just when you think you'll do, you don't  
just when you think you can, you can't  
just when you want to rave, you rant  
just when you think you're cool, you're hot  
when you realize you're a fool and you are  
when you get ready to go and then you stop  
when you feel unsteady and then you fall  
when you think you're finished, and you begin  
when chances are diminished, and you move in  
when you finally complete a long assignment  
your mental gears then shift out of alignment  
are you beginning to get the picture? yes we see  
I am you; you are me, we're all relatively free.

Coda; Recapitulation:

Inside my thick skull hard to crack brain nut  
feeling sorry for myself I laugh and bust a gut  
trusting circular logic I fall into an unreal rut.  
Say what! This is just more ifs ands or buts.  
But isn't that what life is all about? Tut-tut.

## Adults can also embrace a 'back to school' attitude

Going back to my days as a schoolboy, the close of summer has always felt to me like a time of beginning. We tend not to think of the incoming autumn this way. Already, we're nostalgic for the vacation we just took. If we're headed for school, there's a certain bemoaning that occurs. There will be all of that structure again! Homework! Perhaps a strict teacher! The horrors.

Most of us eventually leave school behind, but I have long believed that the adult who lives life best starts a form of school again and again, and the early days of a fresh new school year for children can be a perfect reminder.

Recently, I was paid a visit here in Boston by my two nieces, ages 4 and 8, and my nephew, who is 10, from Chicago. We did various Boston activities—Freedom Trail!—and we had chats. Like about the upcoming school year.

Neither of the two older kids were pleased with the teachers they'd been assigned. They were said to not be fun. Foreboding reputations preceded each of them.

"Children," I said, doing my best to make myself sound like some wise man on a hill and also keep things light, "none of us will ever get anywhere with attitudes like these. Let me tell you about a 'mean' teacher I had," at which point I told them about Ms. Ferris.

She was my third grade teacher. In first grade, I was a model citizen—dare I say, a paragon of behavior. There was a boy in my class from straitened circumstances. Our teacher would give him money out of her own pocket so that he could have something to eat. I'd be assigned to walk with him to the cafe across the street. These were different times. But my point is, I was trusted.

Come the next year, you'd think I was Marlon Brando in "The Wild One." Problem child. My teacher was Ms. Pucci. Everyone raved about her. Best pedagogue in the land.

Every day, though, I was in trouble. No recess for me. I didn't know what I was doing wrong. I thought I was the same kid. I asked Ms. Pucci what I could do better. She answered, "Colin, you give me cold pricklies, and I want warm fuzzies."

Ugh. This lady. What are you going to do?

I got through that year and then learned that my teacher for third grade was to be the dreaded Ms. Ferris, who was talked about like she was the Wicked Witch of the West. I half-expected

By **COLIN FLEMING**

Chicago Tribune

*Colin Fleming is the author of "Sam Cooke: Live at the Harlem Square Club, 1963," an entry in Bloomsbury's 33 1/3 series.*



her to be a tint of green. Happiness went to die in Ms. Ferris' class. I figured, OK, at least she's not Pucci. I'll take my chances.

That was my attitude going in. Ms. Ferris was spoken about like she was 108, but she was probably 34. She had us write stories. She encouraged our imaginations. I wrote. And wrote. And wrote some more. Every day I wrote a story.

And each morning I'd share it with Ms. Ferris. Sometimes I wouldn't even go out for recess, and I was a sporty kid. I'd stay inside, and we'd talk about writing and books. One day, Ms. Ferris said to me, "You have an imagination that other people don't. It's a gift. Let it take you places."

She wasn't just the best teacher I ever had; she was one of the most important people who has ever been in my life. She helped introduce me, to me.

My niece and nephew, both agog, swore to enter the school year with open minds. Because you don't know until you know. Often, we think we know before we do, and then we never know at all.

So while the days of a crisp apple in your lunch bag and the smell of freshly sharpened pencils may be behind you, they're also in front of you in a different manner. We're always free to have the right attitude that allows us to learn. It's funny that we think that's a kid thing. Just as it's ironic that we must grow up and continue to grow by being, at least in part, our own teachers.

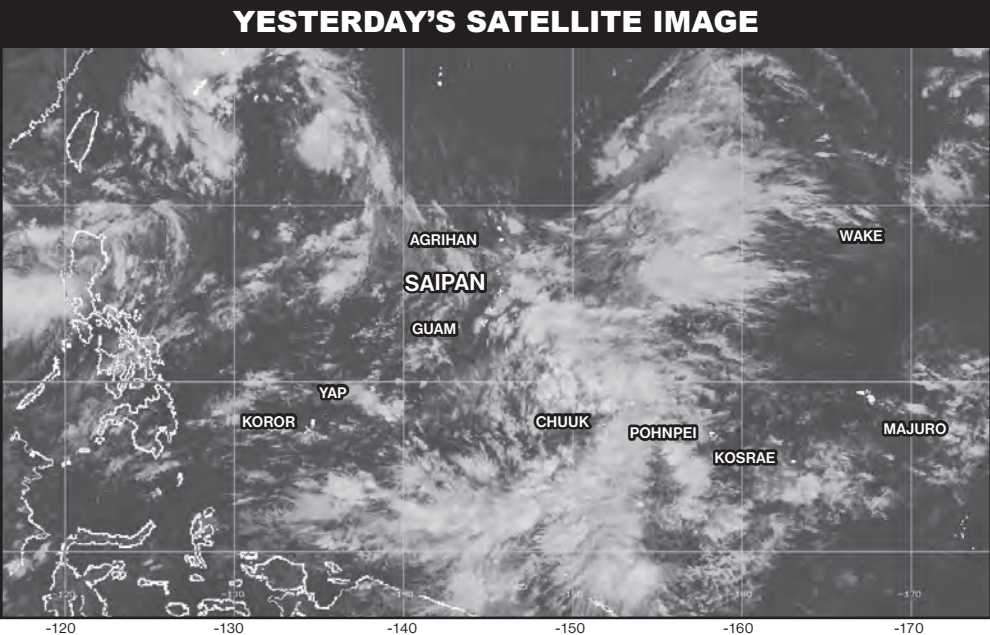
I think about Ms. Ferris often as I commit myself to learning things that I didn't know the day before. The classroom abounds. It's not solely something in a building or back in your past. 'Tis the season to be reminded of what it can do for you. Don't rob yourself of what that means.

The bus awaits, children. And for you adults as well.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Breezy. Cloudy with widespread locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 25 mph becoming south after midnight.		Breezy. Cloudy with widespread locally heavy showers and scattered thunderstorms.		Breezy. Cloudy with widespread locally heavy showers and scattered thunderstorms.		Cloudy with widespread locally heavy showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Cloudy with widespread locally heavy showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°



**PICTURE TIME: 5:58 AM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The overall forecast trend remains on track. Widespread locally heavy rainfall and isolated thunderstorms tonight through at least Thursday as Invest 95W passes through the region, and a robust south to southwest flow sets up in its wake by the latter half of the workweek.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 76°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 76°	
Kosrae	Showers in the Vicinity	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 82°	
DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:05 AM	6:22 PM	
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM	
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM	
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM	
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM	
DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:33 AM	10:55 PM	-
Wednesday	12:29 PM	11:47 PM	-
Thursday	1:27 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:44 AM	2:24 PM
Saturday	-	1:45 AM	3:19 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Mist	75° / 69°	
Hong Kong	Showers in the Vicinity	84° / 79°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°	
London	Showers	64° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 68°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	91° / 80°	
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 41°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
New York	Clear	70° / 56°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	96° / 76°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	84° / 70°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°	
Salem	Sunny	79° / 56°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 58°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	92° / 73°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 56°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:04 AM	Low Tide	0.27	
1:13 PM	High Tide	1.56	
6:13 PM	Low Tide	1.29	
11:11 PM	High Tide	1.65	

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau	
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily	
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily	
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily	
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily	
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.					
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024					
SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily



# PSS' State Personnel Development Grant's 'Project Higai' stakeholders hold engagement



PSS

Educators, advocates, and community leaders gather last Friday at Aqua Resort Club's Project Higai, an ongoing initiative of the Public School System's Special Education Program that was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education as one of only five in the nation.

Key stakeholders, including educators, advocates, and community leaders, convened last Sept. 6 as part of Project Higai, a State Personnel Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Program of the Public School System, to continue the ongoing conversation about how to enhance CNMI's online professional development system for professionals and families in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities.

In Chamorro, *higai* (pronounced *hee-guy*) means "woven palm leaves" used in traditional thatched roofing. Project Higai was founded to serve as the catalyst for crafting meaningful professional development by weaving in various nationally-recognized resources and expertise with local stakeholders and expertise to create relevant, useful, and sustainable special education content for providing special education and related services in CNMI's island communities.

In October last year, the U.S. Department of Education's Special Education Program chose the Public School System's Special Education Program's pioneering initiative, Project Higai, as one of only five in the nation to have been awarded with the five-year state personnel development grant. The PSS-SPED Program is led by State director Donna M. Flores.

During last Friday's stakeholders gathering, 35 key leaders from various sectors were in attendance. Among those in attendance were key PSS management led by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, school administrators, and teachers, PSS Parent Advisory Council, Special Education State Advisory Panel and parents, agency partners, and community leaders, and the CNMI Parent Training and Information program administered by the CNMI Division of Youth Affairs.



PSS

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, center, listens intently with community stakeholders, leaders and education advocates.



PSS

Lead representative for Project Higai's national partner, the American Institute for Research PROGRESS Center's Dr. Tessie Bailey, left, Sara Evans, second right, June De Leon, right, of the University of Guam's CEDDERS, and Special Education Program State director Donna M. Flores, second left.

Project Higai national partner American Institutes for Research PROGRESS Center's Dr. Tessie Bailey and Sara Evans, with regional partner University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service's June De Leon joined the PSS-SPED Program team on site the whole week of last week, to continue its support of project's development of Implementation Support Practitioners. The ISPs are comprised of special education teachers and the development of the project's first special education distance learning course/modules for professionals and families. Their

support included the Sept. 6 engagement that featured the ISPs and an online course.

Project Higai's coordinator is Jerry Diaz.

The Sept. 6 "Engaging Stakeholders in Professional and Family Learning" included sharing and gathering input on progress of Project Higai goals, objectives, and activities, specifically related to strengthening PSS' professional development system. The session featured the project's first online special education course and engaged stakeholders in one of the course activities facilitated by the ISPs to illustrate the different types of activities incorporated into the course design. The engage-



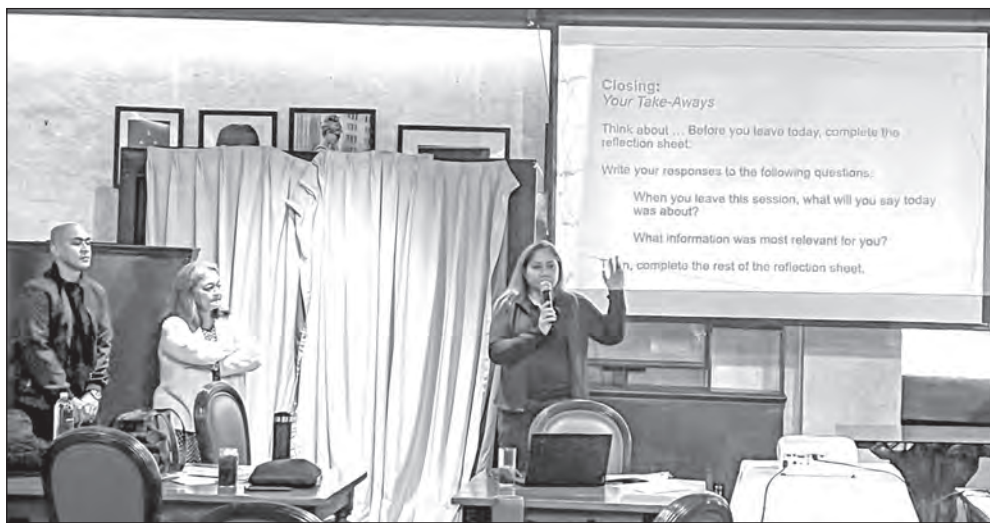
PSS

PSS-SPED State director Donna Flores and University of Guam CEDDERS' June DeLeon discuss with the members parent training and information and parent advisory council group.



PSS

The members of the project development's Implementation Support Practitioners with SPED Program State director Donna M. Flores, and partners Dr. Tessie Bailey, Sara Evans, and June De Leon.



PSS

State director for PSS Special Education Program Donna M. Flores expresses her appreciation at the closing of Friday's stakeholders convening, as UOG-CEDDERS' June De Leon and Project Higai lead coordinator Jerry Diaz listen.



PSS

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and his group discuss ways as part of Project Higai's first online special education course activities.

ment included stakeholders providing feedback on how the course can be improved to be more responsive to

the cultural context of the CNMI. With feedback gathered on Sept. 6, the project's first online special educa-

tion course will be updated and piloted with the ISPs and other special education teachers this Fall 2024. **(PR)**



# World

## Zelenskyy presses US military leaders to let Ukraine strike deeper in Russia

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** (AP)—Ukraine needs the ability to strike deep within Russia now, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told U.S. and allied military leaders Friday as Kyiv more fervently pressed the West to loosen

weapons use restrictions and allow it to target Russian air bases and launch sites far from the border.

Zelenskyy made the case during an in-person meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group at Ramstein Air Base

in Germany. He appeared to make inroads with some of the defense leaders from the 50-plus partner nations who regularly gather to coordinate weapons aid for the war.

But he did not appear to sway the ally he needs most.

After the talks, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin pushed back on the idea that long-range strikes would be a game-changer.

"I don't believe one capability is going to be decisive and I stand by that comment," Aus-

tin said. The Ukrainians have other means to strike long-range targets, he said.

Zelenskyy's request comes after a series of recent deadly Russian airstrikes, including against a Ukrainian military training center that killed more than 50 and wounded hundreds this week. On Friday, the Kremlin fired five ballistic missiles at the city of Pavlohrad in the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region, injuring at least 50 people, regional Gov. Serhii Lysak said.

"We need to have this long-range capability, not only on the divided territory of Ukraine, but also on the Russian territory, so that Russia is motivated to seek peace," Zelenskyy said. "We

need to make Russian cities and even Russian soldiers think about what they need: peace or Putin."

The question remained whether Zelenskyy could convince President Joe Biden that the U.S. should ease its restrictions as well. While Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles into Russia in self-defense, the distance has been largely limited to cross-border targets deemed a direct threat, out of concerns about further escalating the conflict.

At the meeting Friday, multiple countries seemed to be persuaded that Ukraine should get the green light, which could add pressure on the Biden administration.

## Israelis surge into streets again in protest as toll in Gaza grows

**DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip** (AP)—Huge numbers of Israelis again poured into the streets to protest the government's failure to secure the return of remaining hostages in Gaza, while hospital and local authorities said Israeli air raids in the territory killed more than a dozen people overnight into Saturday.

The new protest came a week after one of the largest demonstrations of the war following the discovery of another six dead hostages in Gaza, and after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pushed back against pressure for a cease-fire deal and declared that "no one will preach to me."

"I think even those who were maybe reluctant to go out, who are not used to pro-

test, who are sad but prefer to be in private space within their sadness, understood our voice must join together to one huge scream: Bring the hostages with a deal. Do not risk their lives," said one protester in Tel Aviv, Efrat Machikawa, niece of hostage Gadi Moses.

Israel has been under increasing pressure from the United States and other allies to reach a cease-fire deal, but Netanyahu insists on continued Israeli control of the Philadelphi corridor, a narrow band along Gaza's border with Egypt where Israel contends Hamas smuggles weapons. Egypt and Hamas deny it.

Inside Gaza, health workers wrapped up the second phase of an urgent polio vaccination campaign designed to prevent

a large-scale outbreak. The drive, launched after the first polio case in the Palestinian enclave in 25 years, aims to vaccinate 640,000 children during a war that has destroyed the health care system. The third phase of vaccinations will be in the north.

Israel kept up its military offensive. In central Gaza's urban refugee camp of Nuseirat, Al-Awda Hospital said it received the bodies of nine people killed in two air raids. One hit a residential building, killing four people and wounding at least 10, while five people were killed in a strike on a house in western Nuseirat.

Separately, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, central Gaza's main hospital, said a woman and her two children were

killed in a strike on a house in the nearby urban refugee camp of Bureij.

In northern Gaza, an airstrike on a school-turned-shelter for displaced people in the town of Jabaliya killed at least four people and wounded about two dozen others, according to Gaza's Civil Defense authority, which operates under the territory's Hamas-run government. Israel's military said it struck a Hamas command post embedded in a former school compound.

The war began when Hamas and other militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people, primarily civilians. Hamas is believed to still be holding more than 100 hostages. Israeli authorities estimate about a third are dead.

### PHILIPPINES BRIEFS

#### A Filipino preacher on the run from sexual abuse charges surrenders

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A Filipino preacher accused of sexual abuse and human trafficking in the Philippines and similar charges in the United States surrendered Sunday to authorities in his religious complex in the south and flown to Manila where he was put in police detention, officials said. Apollo Quiboloy and four other co-accused surrendered in the vast religious headquarters of their group, called Kingdom of Jesus Christ, in Davao city after the police gave a 24-hour ultimatum for them to give up, police said. Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos earlier said Quiboloy was caught by authorities. Quiboloy and his co-accused were flown on a Philippine air force C-130 plane to the capital Sunday night and locked up in a heavily guarded detention center at the national police headquarters, where their mugshots and fingerprints were taken, police spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo said in a news briefing. "The Philippine National Police gave an ultimatum for them to surrender, otherwise, we would raid a particular building, where we've been barred from entering," Fajardo said, adding that the warning led to their peaceful surrender. Quiboloy went into hiding earlier this year after a Philippine court ordered his arrest and several others on allegations of suspicion of child and sexual abuse and human trafficking, Fajardo said. The Philippine Senate separately ordered Quiboloy's

arrest for refusing to appear in public committee hearings that were looking into criminal allegations against him.

#### Indonesia deports an ex-PH town mayor accused in Manila of cybercrimes

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—Indonesia on Thursday deported a dismissed Philippine town mayor accused in Manila of helping establish an illegal online gaming and scam center and evading an investigation by the Philippine Senate. Alice Guo, 34, will continue her legal process in Manila, according to a written statement from Indonesia's Law and Human Rights Ministry's Directorate General of Immigration. Indonesian police arrested Guo Tuesday in the outskirts of Jakarta. In exchange, Indonesian authorities hope that the Philippines will repatriate Australian Gregor Johann Haas, one of Indonesia's most-wanted drug suspects, who was arrested in central Philippines in May. Guo was scheduled to undergo a medical checkup at the police headquarters before being handed to the Philippine Senate. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. thanked Indonesia Wednesday for the arrest of Guo, who was accused in the Philippines of helping establish an illegal online gaming and scam center catering mostly to clients in China. Guo was also accused of being a Chinese spy and of faking her Filipino citizenship, which allowed her to be elected in 2022 as mayor of the rural town of Bamban in Tarlac province north of Manila.

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# Life & Style

## ‘Shogun’ wins whopping 14 Emmys at Creative Arts Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Top nominee “Shogun” won a staggering 14 awards in a near-sweep Sunday night at the Creative Arts Emmys, while “The Bear”

won seven including guest actress in a comedy series for Jamie Lee Curtis.

Presenters were saying “Shogun” all night at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles on the second night of the two-night Creative Arts Emmys, where awards are handed out

### » Jamie Lee Curtis gets her first

that don’t quite make the main Primetime Emmys ceremony. That will be held Sept. 15 and air on ABC with hosts Dan and Eugene Levy.

“Shogun,” the FX series about political machinations in feudal Japan, won 14 of the 16 trophies it could have claimed on Sunday night, including Emmys for



Jamie Lee Curtis poses with her award for outstanding guest actress in a comedy series for “The Bear” on night two of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in Los Angeles.

costumes, makeup, editing, stunts and cinematography, along with a best guest actor in a drama Emmy for Néstor Carbonell.

As he accepted, Carbonell thanked the crew, then marveled at how many of them were in the audience.

“You’re all here! You’re all

nominated!” Carbonell said. “I love the team sport of this.”

The wins mean that “Shogun” is already guaranteed to have the highest total after the main ceremony on Sept. 15, though its biggest nominations are yet to come, including best drama and best actor in a drama for star Hiroyuki Sanada.

Curtis was emotional on stage after winning her first Emmy 18 months after winning her first Oscar for “Everything Everywhere All at Once.”

“I’m the luckiest girl in the world,” Curtis said backstage. “I just never thought I would get to do work at this level of depth and complexity and intelligence. It’s been the thrill of my creative life these last couple of years.”

## DirecTV files complaint against Disney with FCC as impasse enters 2nd week

The impasse between DirecTV and Disney over a new carriage agreement has become more heated as it entered its second week.

DirecTV filed a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission on Saturday night accusing Disney of negotiating in bad faith.

Disney channels, including ESPN and ABC-owned stations in nine markets, have been off DirecTV since the evening of Sept. 1. That meant DirecTV customers were blacked out from viewing most college football games and the final week of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, including the women’s and men’s finals.

DirecTV has 11.3 million subscribers, according to Leichtman Research Group, making it the nation’s third-largest pay TV provider.

ABC and ESPN will have the “Monday Night Football” opener between the New York Jets and San Francisco 49ers. ABC will also produce and carry a presidential debate between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump on Tuesday in Philadelphia.

ABC-owned stations in Los Angeles; the San Francisco Bay Area; Fresno, California; New York; Chicago; Philadelphia; Houston; and

Raleigh, North Carolina, are off DirecTV.

Besides all ESPN network channels and ABC-owned stations, Disney-branded channels Freeform, FX and National Geographic channel are dark.

DirecTV says in its 10-page complaint that Disney is violating the FCC’s good faith mandates by asking it to waive any legal claims on any anticompetitive actions, including its ongoing packaging and minimum penetration demands.

DirecTV has asked Disney for the option to provide consumers with cheaper and skinnier bundles of programming, instead of bigger bundles that carry programming some viewers might not be interested in watching.

The complaint states: “Along with these anticompetitive demands, Disney has also insisted that DirecTV agree to a ‘clean slate’ provision and a covenant not to sue, both of which are intended to prevent DirecTV from taking legal action regarding Disney’s anticompetitive demands, which would include filing good faith complaints at the Commission. Not three months ago, however, the Media Bureau made clear that such a demand itself constitutes bad faith.” (AP)

## King Charles attends church prayers on the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth’s death

LONDON (AP)—King Charles III attended church near the royal Balmoral estate in Scotland for prayers and reflection in remembrance of his mother Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday, the second anniversary of her death.

Charles, 75, and his wife Camilla have been spending the summer in the Scottish Highlands, where the late monarch died at 96 years old on September 8, 2022.

Charles and Camilla were seen arriving for the Sunday morning service at the tiny granite church of Crathie Kirk, the royal family’s place of worship when they stay in nearby Balmoral Castle. Charles’ great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, laid the foundation stone for the church, and Elizabeth was a regular attendee.



King Charles and Queen Camilla arrive at Crathie Kirk, near Balmoral, for a Sunday church service, Sunday Sept. 8, 2024.

Charles ascended the throne two years ago Sunday when his mother died in her Platinum Jubilee year after reigning for a record seven decades.

His second year as sovereign was marked by two significant health blows—both Charles and his daughter-in-law Kate, the Princess of Wales, announced they were diagnosed with unspecified types of cancer earlier this year.

The monarch has gradually returned to public duties, undertaking dozens of visits, meetings and events. On Saturday Charles, dressed in a tartan kilt, and Camilla were seen laughing and in good spirits as they visited the Braemar Gathering Highland Games, an annual event featuring bagpiping, Highland dancing and traditional games including tug-of-war.

had a loving relationship, I don’t want either of them to feel bad about disposing of it.

## Girlfriend rejects proposal offered with one big catch

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend’s mom has dementia. He asked me and my kids to move in with him and said he would marry me. In exchange, he expected me to quit my job and take care of his mom. I felt it was a disaster waiting to happen, and taking care of someone with dementia while raising two teenagers was a terrible idea, so I refused.

He put his mother in a nursing home, and now I am no longer treated the same by him. The woman is abusive. She hits and bites and isn’t easy to deal with. Living with her would have destroyed our relationship and been stressful for my children. My boyfriend isn’t the easiest guy to open up to. I’m sad and don’t know what to do.

TOO MUCH TO HANDLE

DEAR TOO MUCH: When your boyfriend proposed marriage, it wasn’t because he loved you. He was looking for an easy solution (for him) to his mother problem. To expect you to quit your job and sacrifice your retirement benefits was nervy. You are not trained to care for a violent dementia patient. He treats you differently because he’s angry you didn’t go along with his plans for you. What you should do now is move on, because his resentment is unlikely to diminish.

DEAR ABBY: For the entirety of our relationship, my wife has never listened to me. It’s literally the only thing I’ve ever asked her to do. She constantly tells me I have nothing worthwhile to say, without ever actually letting me finish a sentence.

My mother is coming into some money and offered me a sizable sum, provided I don’t tell my wife. I’m seriously considering “taking the money and running.” I can no longer deal with the constant emotional abuse. My wife treats her children the same way, and it’s disgusting to me. What should I do?

TEMPTED IN CANADA

DEAR TEMPTED: If things are as bad as you have described, talk to an attorney and legally declare your independence. After that’s done, take your mother up on her generous offer.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When I married in 1974, my mother had one of my wedding photos of me in my wedding dress and holding my bouquet. It was lovely, and she had it made up into a large 36-inch-by-26-inch portrait with a beautiful frame. It hung in my old bedroom until she passed away. I have had it in a closet in my house ever since.

I’ve asked my daughter and son if they would like to have it, and they don’t. I’m wondering if I should throw it away or leave it up to them when I’m gone. Because we have always

## DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



had a loving relationship, I don’t want either of them to feel bad about disposing of it.

PICTURING THE FUTURE

DEAR PICTURING: You must be sentimental about that portrait, or you wouldn’t have kept it all these years. Because of that, I don’t think you should toss it. After you are gone, your daughter or son may change their mind about having it. Let them decide when the time comes.

■■■

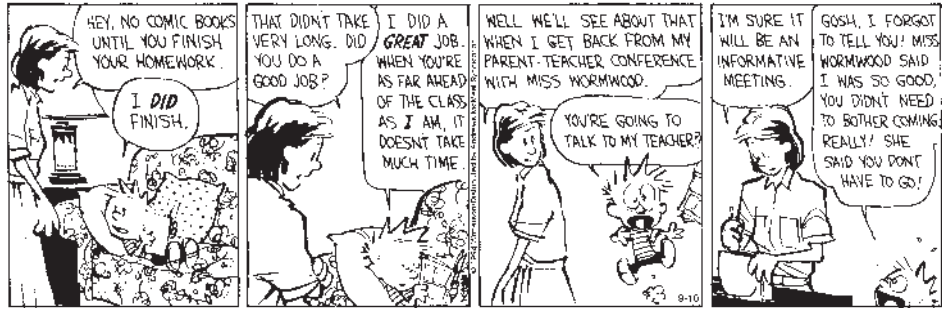
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Pastimes

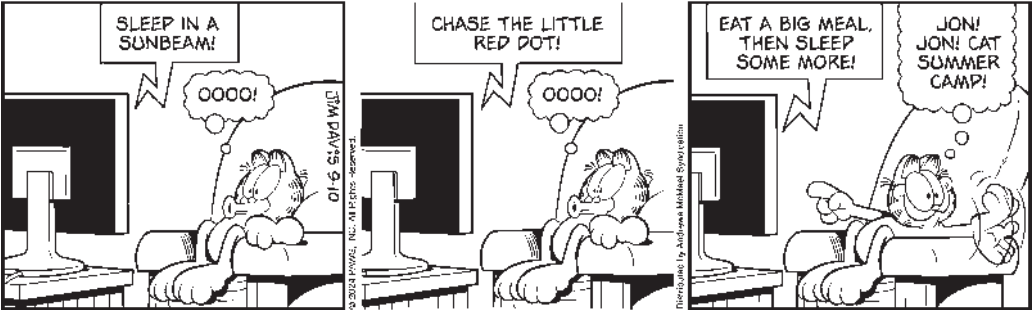
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



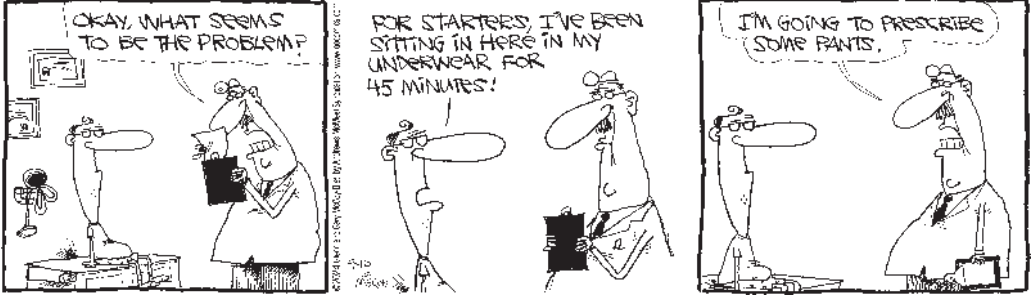
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Is boastful 2 Physics particle 22 Chal- 1 Faction 38 Student 3 "CSI" 23 Indiges- 5 Ener- 40 Buffalo's evidence 24 Hotel 9 Ninny 42 UFO 5 Carrots' worker 12 Hawaiian crew 43 Jakarta's 6 Different 27 Jargon 13 Power co. land 7 Architect suffix 14 Ultimate 49 Within (Pref.) 8 Triangle 28 Pealed 15 Classic Ingrid 50 "Peter Pan" nada's 31 Makes a come- 17 Actress 51 "Caught ya!" 10 Flower part 34 Luau memento 18 Gaelic 52 Line of fashion? 16 Attempt 35 Hogs the mirror 19 Andean animal 53 Hot tubs 20 Varnish 37 Crib 38 Anti-fur org. 24 Repeat 1 Reggae 21 Skunk's 39 Hex- 25 Calendar relative defense 40 Ice- 41 Leeway 42 Hosp. areas 31 Wartime riveter 32 "Don't — a word!" 33 Aired again 35 Year 36 Congers

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Phillippe, 50; Colin Firth, 64; Amy Irving, 71; Joe Perry, 74.

Happy Birthday: Don't let emotions lead you in the wrong direction or lose sight of common sense when dealing with domestic or partnership issues. Set boundaries and standards, and strive for equality. The wrong move or choice can hurt your reputation or financial future. Discipline and consistency are your ticket to success. Take your time, keep your life simple and keep your overhead within your means. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 27, 30, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Create opportunities, discuss your plans and don't wait for others to make the first move. Be direct, diligent and disciplined; you will discover something you want to pursue passionately. Don't lose sight of the rules, regulations and red-tape issues necessary to move forward. Self-improvement is favored. \*\*\*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Mingle, share thoughts and intentions, and listen to suggestions. Uncertainty means you require more insight, research and proof that you are heading down the right path. Use your charm, not your money, to get the information you need to make the best choice. Personal growth is the objective. \*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Uncertainty and questioning and reevaluating your life, position and a subsequent move will motivate you to shoot for the stars and follow your dreams. Before you cast your fate to the wind, consider the consequences and the emotional fallout. Be wise and make choices based on facts, not feelings. \*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Structure your energy wisely. Refrain from fussing over something you cannot change.

Focus on talking to experts and those you can count on for honesty and integrity. Address your pastimes and what you can do to live healthier. Rely on facts, not emotions. \*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Notice what's happening around you. Get involved in events that grab your interest and encourage you to think before you spend. Generosity can make you feel good about yourself, but it can also lead to stress if you don't take care of yourself first. \*\*\*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Prioritize detail and research. An offer may sound good, but it needs more substance to lead to success. Question everything and everyone before you agree to something that has costly proposals. Be realistic and forthright, ask questions and make adjustments that benefit you. \*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Research is necessary to avoid mistakes. Don't act in haste regarding professional decisions, words or actions that can hurt your reputation. Take your time, consider your options and only make a move if it's lucrative or beneficial to your health, lifestyle and happiness. \*\*\*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be tempted by someone pressuring you to get involved in a joint venture or to spend on something they want more than you do. Focus on your long-term plans, stability and making sure you can fend for yourself regardless of what others do. Avoid emotional spending. \*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be playing with fire if you let someone infiltrate and disrupt your plans. Stick to what you know and do best, and forgo pleasing someone looking out for their own interests. Opportunity begins with doing what's best for you. Put your time into personal benefits. \*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Size up what's entailed in your plans emotionally, physically and financially before you begin the change process. Question who and how others play a role in your success and the incentives you can offer to ensure smooth sailing. Use your strength and courage to reach your goal. \*\*\*



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pay attention to health, fitness and socializing with people who can enrich your life. Don't let uncertainty set in or cause a lack of self-confidence. When in doubt, gather facts, assess situations and make choices that improve your life. It's up to you to create personal contentment. \*\*\*\*\*



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Excess and indulgence will set you back. Rethink your day, keep your schedule manageable and leave enough time to do things right the first time. Use your energy wisely and your mind acutely. It's up to you to set the pace, boundaries and costs of whatever you pursue. \*\*



Birthdays: You are changeable, curious and sensitive. You are persistent and imaginative.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2			7	5		1		8
			4		3	9		
			1	6			3	7
8			5	1	2	6	7	
	5	1		3	7	8		
			6	8		5	1	
5		2	3	7				1
7							8	5
		3		4	5	6		

Difficulty: ★★

9/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	9	6	3	1	5	4	7	8
1	5	7	9	4	8	6	2	3
3	8	4	7	6	2	9	5	1
7	3	9	4	5	6	8	1	2
6	2	1	8	9	3	5	4	7
5	4	8	1	2	7	3	6	9
9	6	5	2	3	1	7	8	4
8	1	3	5	7	4	2	9	6
4	7	2	6	8	9	1	3	5

Difficulty: ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PLANTING & HARVESTING CROPS

Solution: 10 letters

H	V	E	K	L	A	T	S	P	I	N	R	U	T	P
T	C	O	T	A	T	O	P	S	W	O	R	H	O	
W	G	L	G	T	I	U	R	F	O	P	O	O	G	L
O	E	R	U	T	S	I	O	M	E	W	T	C	U	L
R	K	E	A	M	W	R	U	S	E	O	C	I	O	I
G	A	V	I	G	O	T	L	S	A	L	L	R	N	
S	R	P	I	A	N	I	R	Y	R	I	H	R	D	A
N	O	I	N	O	C	S	N	R	O	T	C	A	R	T
A	B	I	E	I	E	T	O	S	U	E	A	G	D	I
E	C	M	D	M	H	T	H	T	Y	F	N	R	E	O
B	D	E	U	E	B	C	S	F	D	A	I	E	T	N
T	E	G	S	H	O	E	I	I	D	R	P	E	A	A
I	E	I	B	R	T	L	D	E	A	M	S	N	T	E
L	S	G	N	I	T	N	A	L	P	S	P	L	O	W
L	L	A	F	N	I	A	R	D	R	A	H	C	R	O

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Beans, Bed, Carrot, Corn, Drought, Farm, Field, Fruit, Furrow, Garlic, Grains, Green, Growth, Legumes, Moisture, Mulch, Onion, Orchard, Organic, Paddy, Pesticide, Photosynthesis, Planting, Plow, Pollination, Potato, Radish, Rainfall, Rake, Reap, Rotated, Rows, Seed, Soil, Sow, Spinach, Sprout, Stalk, Thumb, Till, Tractor, Trowel, Turnips, Vine

Yesterday's Answer: Displaying For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

STUMPED?

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# Steelers get past Falcons on Boswell's six field goals



## ATLANTA

(AP)—With Russell Wilson's Pittsburgh debut put on hold by a calf injury, Justin Fields stepped in to lead the Steelers to a 18-10 victory over the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday—with a big assist from Chris Boswell's strong right leg.

Boswell booted six field goals, three of them longer than 50 yards, and the Steelers made life miserable for Kirk Cousins in his first game as Atlanta's big-money quarterback.

Boswell connected from 57, 56, 51, 44, 40 and 25 yards to account for all the Steelers' scoring.

## BILLS 34, CARDINALS 28

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Josh Allen had three of his four touchdowns in the second half and Buffalo overcame a 14-point deficit to defeat Arizona.

Greg Rousseau had a career-best three sacks, including one that forced a fumble. The defense preserved the Bills' win when Damar Hamlin and Ja'Marcus Ingram broke up Kyler Murray's pass attempt to Greg Dortch near the goal line on fourth-and-7 from Buffalo's 29 with 26 seconds remaining.

This was a thrilling back-and-forth affair between two non-conference rivals on a blustery day with temperatures in the low 60s and heavy winds gusting up to 30 mph (45kph) from the west off of nearby Lake Erie.

## BEARS 24, TITANS 17

CHICAGO (AP)—Caleb Williams had a rough debut for Chicago but got bailed out by his defense, with Tyrique Stevenson returning an interception 43 yards for the go-ahead touchdown to give the Bears a victory over Tennessee.

The Bears, who have their sights set on a playoff spot after going 10-24 over the previous two seasons, trailed 17-0 in the first half. They shut down the Titans from there and spoiled the debut of Tennessee coach Brian Callahan.

Williams, the No. 1 overall pick, finished 14 of 29 for 93 yards with a 55.7 passer rating. The former Heisman Trophy winner at Southern California still became the first quarterback drafted first overall to win his debut start since 2002, when David Carr led Houston past Dallas. The past 15 No. 1 picks were a combined 0-14-1 in initial starts, beginning with Cincinnati's Carson Palmer in 2003.



Pittsburgh Steelers running back Najee Harris (22) jumps over Atlanta Falcons cornerback Mike Hughes (21) during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in Atlanta.

## PATRIOTS 16, BENGALS 10

CINCINNATI (AP)—Rhamondre Stevenson rushed for 120 yards and a first-quarter touchdown, Joey Slye kicked three field goals and New England won Jerod Mayo's debut as coach, beating mistake-prone Cincinnati.

Quarterback Jacoby Brissett, who got the starting nod for the Patriots over first-round draft pick Drake Maye, was not exceptional, but he held onto the ball and kept the Patriots moving well enough against slow-starting Cincinnati.

The nine-year veteran directed a methodical 80-yard drive in the first quarter that included six first downs was capped by a 3-yard TD run by Stevenson.

## TEXANS 29, COLTS 27

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Stefon Diggs caught two touchdown passes and Joe Mixon rushed for 159 yards and another score Sunday to help Houston close out a victory against Indianapolis.

Houston (1-0) won its second straight road game in the series for the first time in franchise history and its ninth straight road game in division play.

The Colts (0-1), meanwhile, extended the NFL's longest active opening day winless streak to 11 despite getting two TD passes of more than 50 yards from Anthony Richardson, who also ran for a late score.

He was 9 of 19 with 212 yards and one interception and, ran six times for 56 yards

including a 3-yard scoring run with 2:14 left to trim the deficit to 29-27.

## DOLPHINS 20, JAGUARS 17

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Jason Sanders nailed a 52-yard field goal as time expired, and Miami rallied past Jacksonville to win their fourth straight season opener.

Fresh off a big offseason payday, Tua Tagovailoa threw for 336 yards and a touchdown and led Miami on an 8-play, 31-yard drive over the final 2:09.

Tyreek Hill started the comeback with 80-yard touchdown catch that sparked Miami's sluggish offense in the third quarter and got the Dolphins within 17-14. After the score, Hill placed his hands behind his back as if to simulate being handcuffed, hours after he was placed facedown and handcuffed on a street by Miami-Dade Police officers after being stopped for a traffic violation near Hard Rock Stadium.

Hill finished with seven catches for 130 yards. Devon Achane seven catches for 75 yards and ran for 25 yards and a touchdown on 10 carries.

## SAINTS 47, PANTHERS 10

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Derek Carr passed for three touchdowns and New Orleans scored on their first nine possessions in a victory over Carolina.

Alvin Kamara and Jamaal Williams each ran for touchdowns and Blake Grupe kicked four field goals — two from beyond 50 yards — in an

extraordinary debut for new Saints offensive coordinator Klint Kubiak.

The Panthers, who went 2-15 last season, made front office, coaching and key roster changes in hopes of showing more promise this season. But this season opener could not have gone much worse for new coach Dave Canales and second-year quarterback Bryce Young.

Young was 13 of 30 passing for 161 yards and was intercepted twice—once each by safeties Will Harris and Jordan Howden.

## VIKINGS 28, GIANTS 6

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Sam Darnold threw two touchdown passes in a highly efficient performance and Andrew Van Ginkel scored on a spectacular one-handed 10-yard interception return to lead Minnesota to an easy victory over the woeful New York Giants.

Darnold, who played his home games at MetLife Stadium for three seasons after being taken No. 3 overall by the Jets in 2018, had touchdown passes of 3 yards to Justin Jefferson and 21 to Jalen Nailor in his Vikings debut.

Darnold also had a 22-yard pass to Josh Oliver to help set up Aaron Jones' 3-yard TD run that put Minnesota ahead 7-3 late in the first quarter and got Kevin O'Connell's team off to a good start as it looks to rebound from a disappointing 7-10 season.

## CHARGERS 22, RAIDERS 10

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—J.K. Dobbins rushed

for 135 yards, including a 12-yard touchdown, and Los Angeles had a successful debut under Jim Harbaugh as they rallied in the second half for a victory over Las Vegas.

All 10 of Dobbins' carries came in the second half. It was the fifth 100-yard rushing game for Dobbins, who signed a one-year deal with the Chargers during the off-season after beginning his career in Baltimore.

Dobbins played in only one game last year when he tore his Achilles tendon during the second half of Baltimore's opener against Houston.

Justin Herbert was 17 of 26 for 144 yards and a touchdown as the Chargers avenged a 63-21 loss to the Raiders last December, which resulted in the firings of coach Brandon Staley and general manager Tom Telesco. That set in motion the eventual hiring of Harbaugh after he led Michigan to a national title.

Gardner Minshew was 25 of 33 for 257 yards with a touchdown and an interception in his first game for the Raiders.

## SEAHAWKS 26, BRONCOS 20

SEATTLE (AP)—Kenneth Walker III rushed for 84 of his 103 yards and a touchdown in the second half and Seattle overcame a mistake-filled first half to beat Denver in the debut of new coach Mike Macdonald.

Walker sparked a second-half rally after an unsightly performance by Seattle's offense over the first 30 minutes littered with sloppy miscues. The Broncos led 13-9 at the half thanks in part to two safeties.

Walker changed the momentum in the third quarter as Seattle recommitted to the ground game. He gained 53 yards on five carries on Seattle's first drive of the second half, capped by a 23-yard touchdown run. Walker had another TD called back on a penalty, but he still produced the seventh 100-yard rushing game of his career.

## COWBOYS 33, BROWNS 17

CLEVELAND (AP)—Dak Prescott threw a touchdown pass hours after agreeing to a four-year, \$240 million contract with Dallas and the Cowboys' defense roughed up Deshaun Watson in his return, throttling Cleveland in their opener.

Prescott's deal makes him the first player to average \$60 million per season and ends months of speculation about his future with the Cowboys, who have won 12 games in each of the past three years

with him.

Earlier this week, Prescott, coming off his best season and entering his final year under contract, said he wants to be the quarterback to finally end the team's Super Bowl drought. He'll get the chance.

He completed 19 of 32 passes for 179 yards, and relaxed for much of the second half.

## BUCCANEERS 37, COMMANDERS 20

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Baker Mayfield threw for 289 yards and four touchdowns to lead Tampa Bay to a rout of new-look Washington, spoiling the NFL debut of No. 2 overall draft pick Jayden Daniels on Sunday.

Daniels was more effective running the ball than passing, scoring a pair of rushing TDs for Washington, which is aiming for a fresh start with the 2023 Heisman Trophy winner at quarterback, Dan Quinn as the coach and Kliff Kingsbury and Joe Whitt Jr. running the offense and defense, respectively.

The former LSU star was one of three rookie starting quarterbacks in Week 1, along with No. 1 pick Caleb Williams of the Chicago Bears and 12th pick Bo Nix of the Denver Broncos. He joined Robert Griffin III (2012) as the only rookies to start a season opener for Washington since 1967.

Mayfield jumpstarted a fizzling career last season, signing a one-year contract with the Buccaneers and winning Tom Brady's old job before leading Tampa Bay to a third consecutive NFC South title and a playoff victory.

## LIONS 26, RAMS 20, OT

DETROIT (AP)—David Montgomery's 1-yard touchdown run in overtime lifted Detroit to a win over Matthew Stafford-led Los Angeles in a rematch of their NFC wild-card game.

The Lions lost a two-touchdown lead in the third quarter, but extended the game with Jake Bates' tying 32-yard field goal in the final minute of regulation.

Detroit won the coin flip and took advantage of having the ball, gaining at least 9 yards on its first four plays in overtime to set up Montgomery's winning score.

The Rams were in a position to spoil Detroit's season-opening party when Stafford threw a go-ahead, 9-yard touchdown pass to Cooper Kupp with 4:30 left in the fourth quarter.

They just couldn't make enough plays on both sides of the ball to hold on for the win.



# Braves comeback win over Jays moves them into tie with Mets for wild card

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Sean Murphy's infield ground ball with the bases loaded scored a sliding Eli White in the 11th inning, and the Atlanta Braves rallied for a gritty 4-3 win over the Toronto Blue Jays on Sunday.

The Braves now have 12 extra-inning wins, which leads the big leagues. They took two of three games from the Blue Jays and are tied with the New York Mets for the final wild card in a tight National League playoff race.

Atlanta got another brilliant outing from left-hander Chris Sale, who pitched six shutout innings. White entered the game as a defensive replacement at second base, which was just his fourth game in the big leagues at the position.

The Braves' decisive rally started when White led off the 11th inning with a bunt single that advanced automatic runner Michael Harris II to third base. Adam Duvall then reached on an error by Blue Jays third baseman Addison Barger, whose throw sailed wide to first and scored Harris to tie the game.

Murphy followed with the bouncing ball up the middle and White was able to score, sliding in ahead of the throw.

George Springer put the Blue Jays up 3-2 in the 11th with a bouncing single up the middle that scored Barger, who had advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt from Brian Serven.

## GIANTS 7, PADRES 6

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Matt Chapman, Jerar Encarnacion and Luis Matos homered off Joe Musgrove in the six-run fourth inning and San Francisco held on to beat San Diego to take two of three games.

Curt Casili also connected for the Giants, who had a winning record (4-3) in San Diego for the first time since 2021 and took a 6-4 lead in the season series with three games to go in San Francisco.

The Padres, who have lost three of four, lead the race for the top NL wild card.

The Giants led 6-0 and 7-1 before some shoddy Giants defense and a bullpen meltdown let the Padres close to 7-6. They scored three runs in the seventh, one on a wild pitch by Tyler Rogers and two on an error by shortstop

## DODGERS 4, GUARDIANS 0

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit his 46th home run of the season to tie his career high, Jack Flaherty pitched another gem and Los Angeles beat Cleveland in



Atlanta Braves shortstop Orlando Arcia reacts during the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in Atlanta.

record-tying heat.

With the first-pitch temperature of 103 degrees matching the hottest in Dodger Stadium history, Ohtani hit a 450-foot solo shot down the right-field line off Tanner Bibee in the fifth inning that was reviewed to see if it was fair.

Ohtani also hit 46 home runs in 2021 for the Los Angeles Angels in his unanimous AL MVP season. The Japanese star has 46 stolen bases in a bid to become the first major league player with a 50-50 season.

## TIGERS 9, ATHLETICS 1

**OAKLAND** (AP)—Trey Sweeney had four hits, including a home run, Ty Madden struck out seven and Detroit beat Oakland.

The Tigers, looking to make a late rally in the AL Wild Card race, took two out of three in Oakland and are two games above .500.

The A's, who will play their home games in Sacramento next season ahead of a planned move to Las Vegas in 2028, drew 11,250 fans.

Madden (1-0) and Beau Brieske combined to take a no-hit bid into the fifth, with Madden recording his first career win after Brieske served as an opener in the first. The 24-year-old struck out seven in five innings and held the A's to one run in his third major league appearance.

## MARINERS 10, CARDINALS 4

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—Randy Arozarena and Jorge Polanco hit two-run home runs and Seattle scored five times in the first inning on their way to a victory over St. Louis.

After getting shut out for the ninth time this season, Seattle started the game with five straight hits and all five batters

came around to score.

Julio Rodríguez led off with a double to left field and scored on Cal Raleigh's single. Luke Raley followed Arozarena's single with a two-run double. He and Justin Turner would eventually score on Mitch Garner's two-out single that made it 5-0.

## WHITE SOX 7, RED SOX 2

**BOSTON** (AP)—Dominic Fletcher's RBI double sparked a five-run ninth inning and Chicago avoided a three-game sweep with a victory over Boston.

Chicago starter Chris Flexen's winless streak extended to 21 straight starts—the longest in team history—after he was pulled with the game tied in the seventh inning. The 30-year-old right-hander gave up two runs on six hits, striking out six and walking one.

Chicago (33-11) had lost 14 of its last 15 games before rallying against Boston reliever Zack Kelly (6-3). Zach DeLoach added a two-run double in the ninth inning.

## CUBS 2, YANKEES 1

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Jameson Taillon allowed only one run in six innings and Chicago beat New York to avoid a series sweep.

Taillon (10-8) struck out six against his former team. He gave up Anthony Volpe's second-inning, RBI sacrifice fly and allowed six hits.

New York remained a half-game ahead of second-place Baltimore in the AL East.

Chicago won 10 of 13 games in late August, but had dropped four of five to the Pirates and Yankees during its homestand entering Sunday.

## RANGERS 7, ANGELS 4

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Andrew Heaney

snapped an eight-start winless streak as Texas took an early five-run lead and beat Los Angeles.

Heaney (5-13), one short of the major league lead in losses, allowed four runs, three earned, on three hits in six-plus innings to win for the first time since July 21. He was backed by home runs from Marcus Semien, Nathaniel Lowe and Ezequiel Duran.

It was rare run support for Heaney. The 33-year-old left-hander received two runs or fewer of support in his previous seven starts and 18 of his 27 this season before Sunday. His 3.55 average run support as a starter was fourth lowest in the American League.

## RAYS 2, ORIOLES 0

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Zack Littell and four relievers combined on a five-hit shutout, Jonny DeLuca hit a two-run homer and Tampa Bay beat Baltimore.

Littell and Corbin Burnes were locked in a scoreless duel until the sixth inning, when DeLuca followed a leadoff walk with his sixth home run in 289 at-bats this season, a drive to left on a 1-1 pitch.

That was enough to outdo a struggling Baltimore offense that scored only three runs in the three-game series.

## PIRATES 7, NATIONALS 3

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Jared Jones cruised through seven innings, striking out nine, as Pittsburgh beat Washington for a split of the four-game series.

Jones (6-7) allowed two runs and four hits, all coming in the first two innings. The 23-year-old rookie right-hander retired 16 straight to end his outing, striking out five of the final six.

CJ Abrams led off the game

with a homer to right-center, his 19th, for a lead that was erased when the Pirates scored four runs in the bottom half.

Joey Bart sent a liner to left off a cutter from Patrick Corbin (5-13), a two-run home run for his 13th of the season. Billy Cook, who was 2 for 4 in his major league debut after being selected from Triple-A Indianapolis, then dropped a two-run double just inside the left-field line.

## MARLINS 10, PHILLIES 1

**MIAMI** (AP)—Edward Cabrera pitched seven scoreless innings, Connor Norby homered twice and Miami beat Philadelphia.

The 26-year-old Cabrera, who struck out six and walked one, didn't allow a hit until Brandon Marsh singled with no outs in the sixth. He finished with three hits allowed.

Cabrera (4-6) originally was scheduled to start against Philadelphia on Friday, but was a late scratch after experiencing migraine-like symptoms.

Rookie Griffin Conine had three hits while Javier Sanoja doubled and singled for the Marlins, who split the four-game set against the NL-East leading Phillies. Philadelphia won the season series 7-6.

## ROYALS 2, TWINS 0

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Michael Wacha pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Garrett Hampson and Salvador Perez drove in runs and Kansas City beat Minnesota to complete a series sweep of their closest pursuers in the AL wild-card race.

Wacha (12-7) struck out seven while allowing just one walk in 100th career win. He got plenty of help from his defense, which turned two double plays and threw out a runner trying to score from first base in the first inning.

Kris Bubic handled the eighth for Kansas City before Lucas Erceg worked around a leadoff single in the ninth for his 11th save.

Simeon Woods Richardson (5-4) allowed two runs on three hits and two walks before he was pulled with one out in the fifth inning. The Twins bullpen did not allow a run the rest of the way, though it didn't matter with their offense getting shut out.

## REDS 3, METS 1

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Santiago Espinal hit a tie-breaking two-run double in the ninth inning to lift Cincinnati to a victory and snap New York's nine-game winning streak.

Phil Maton (2-3) opened the ninth by plunking Spen-

cer Steer before Ty France legged out an infield single. Both runners advanced a base on Jake Fraley's groundout before Espinal's hit down the left-field line.

The two-run rally ended an 80-inning streak in which the Mets hadn't trailed, the longest streak in the majors this season.

Buck Farmer (3-0) threw a perfect eighth and Alexis Diaz earned his 26th save with a 1-2-3 ninth.

Noelvi Marte had a game-tying RBI single in the seventh.

## ROCKIES 4, BREWERS 1

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Kyle Freeland pitched one-run ball for six innings and Sam Hillard hit a three-run homer as Colorado beat NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Freeland (5-7) allowed an unearned run on three hits and struck out four for his ninth quality start of the season. The 31-year-old left-hander improved to 5-3 in his last 13 starts since returning from a left elbow strain that landed him on the injured list on June 23rd.

Freeland allowed a base hit to Issac Collins in the second inning and then retired the next 14 batters. Relievers Seth Halvorsen, Angel Chivilli and Angel Chivilli teamed up for three hitless innings of relief.

Halvorsen pitched a 1-2-3 seventh. Chivilli handled the eighth, and Kinley retired the side in order in the ninth, extending his career-high save total to 11 out of 12 chances.

## DIAMONDBACKS 12, ASTROS 6

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Pavin Smith homered in first three at-bats for his first multi-home run game and drove in a career-high eight runs, helping Arizona rout Houston to end a three-game losing streak.

Smith became the second Diamondback with a three-homer game this season, with Eugenio Suárez doing it against Washington on July 30. J.D. Martinez set the Arizona record with four home runs at Los Angeles on Sept. 4, 2017.

Smith fell an RBI shy of the Arizona record set by Erubiel Durazo in 2002. Chris Iannetta also had eight RBIs for the Diamondbacks in a 2017 game. Smith's previous high was six.

Arizona — which scored at least 10 runs for a majors-best 18th time—pulled within a half-game of San Diego for the National League's first wild card and increased its lead over New York and Atlanta to 1 1/2 games. Houston leads Seattle by 4 1/2 games in the AL West.



# Sinner beats Fritz in men’s final just weeks after his doping exoneration

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jannik Sinner started slowly at the U.S. Open, dropping the first set he played after being exonerated in a doping case no one knew about until shortly before play began at Flushing Meadows.

If that episode initially hung over him during the tournament, Sinner was able to put it aside while on court. Was he ever. The No. 1-ranked Sinner beat Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 with his typical re-

lentless baseline game to win the men’s championship at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday, less than three weeks after word emerged of the Italian’s two positive tests for a trace amount of an anabolic steroid.

“It was, and it’s still, a little bit in my mind,” Sinner said. “It’s not that it’s gone, but when I’m on court, I try to focus (on) the game, I try to handle the situation the best possible way. ... It was not easy, that’s for sure, but ... I tried to stay focused, which I guess I’ve done a great job,

mentally staying there every point I play.”

This 2-hour, 15-minute victory gave him a second Grand Slam trophy—the other was at the Australian Open in January—and prevented No. 12 Fritz from ending the major title drought for American men that has lasted 21 years.

Andy Roddick’s triumph at Flushing Meadows in 2003 was the last Slam title for a man from the United States. The last before Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, to even contest a final at one of the four biggest tournaments



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, holds up the championship trophy after defeating Taylor Fritz, of the United States, in the men’s singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in New York.

the 2003 U.S. Open. Jessica Pegula reached the women’s final before losing to Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus.

Sinner improved to 55-5 with a tour-high six titles in 2024. That includes a 35-2 mark on hard courts, the surface used at both the Australian Open and U.S. Open. He’s the first man since Guillermo Vilas in 1977 to win his first two Grand Slam trophies in the same season.

This was the first year since 2002 in which no member of the Big Three—Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal or the retired Federer—won at least one major. Instead, Sinner, who is 23, and Carlos Alcaraz, 21, split the four Slam titles.

“Nice to see new champions,” Sinner said. “Nice to see new rivalries.”

## MASAKI

From page 16

the 2024 Copa De Marianas Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Tournament last February.

Even with competing and racking up hardware in BJJ, Kitami said he realized MMA was for him.

The difference between MMA and BJJ is that the

end goal for MMA involves either a knockout, lights-out, or technical knockout when the opponent can no longer verbally speak, or when the opponent is unconscious. In BJJ, the goal is to submit an opponent either through a chokehold, armbar, or any other type of joint-manipulation using the legs, arms, and hips.

Kitami added, “I thank

my friends and family back home but mostly especially my training partners that built me at Saipan Submissions [Academy]. Jiu jitsu taught me discipline, confidence, and self-defense.”

“I recommend your kids/adults that are interested to go and learn from my coach Bryan Deleon Guerrero. He’s nice and fun to learn from,” said Kitami.

## FITAL

From page 16

match against Collier was named fight of the night Shamrock FC 357, which resulted in an additional financial bonus for both fighters.

Fital started the opening round aggressively with a flurry of punches, causing Collier to move backward but making counter punches.

Collier showed quickness and with only 24 seconds into the first round, his left straight hit Fital on the face.

The 6’3” Fital fell on the floor, then Collier followed with a right punch on the face as the referee intervened to stop the fight.

Collier, who also stands at 6’3”, now has a 14-10-0 win-loss-draw card.

In response to *Saipan Tribune’s* questions yesterday, the 40-year-old Fital said Collier got him when he fell down which caused a knockout.

Fital said while he stood up quickly, the referee already called the fight.

“The fight went well. We both came in strong but once

again only one man can walk away with a win, and last night it was Collier,” he said.

Fital said he is great and win or lose, mixed martial arts is something he loves to do.

“To get to experience this with my family is a win to myself so I will always be thankful for the opportunity regardless of the outcome,” he said.

The CNMI mixed martial arts fighter and former CNMI national basketball player said it’s always an honor to represent the islands in the MMA scene.

“They see that we can fight and I’m opening opportunities for fighters from the islands.”

He then dedicated his fight of the night accolade to his family, fans, people of the Marianas, and sponsors and then thanked his cornermen, Trevis Hanley and Alonzo King.

“To my opponent, we both came in hard, but only one man can take the win. Thank you to Shamrock FC for the opportunity and taking care of me and my family during the process. Most especially to my two biggest fans, my daughter Kelsha and my other half for joining me on this fight and being pa-

tient while I get to work. This fight was special because they were right by my side,” he said.

Fital is turning 41 this Sept. 13, but is not just ready to retire from MMA.

He said right now he is ready to work harder for future fights to be announced.

“No matter where we end up in this world, whatever your passion is, do it with pride. Always represent your island, never give up. It’s always a win whenever you do not give up,” Fital said. “This definitely isn’t the last, as always I will be proud to represent the CNMI everywhere I go.”

He said losing is only room for improvement, and never give up on yourself no matter how many times it may take, your time will come.

“All glory to God for the opportunity and blessings. I am safe, healthy, and determined to become stronger,” Fital said.

With the loss to Collier, Fital said he now has a 15-15-2 win-loss-draw card. It was his fifth successive loss.

Fital and his family relocated from Saipan to California six months ago.

## DMS

From page 16

that I achieved this.”

For Brasuell, she said, “It was tiring but I pulled through it. It just felt like I really tried this time.”

When asked how she felt coming in first for the girls on a hot day, she said, “It feels amazing... I’d rather like to

run on a cloudy day though because when it rains, I keep sniffing, and when it’s sunny, it’s just too hot.”

Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS headmaster and coach and meet director, said of the Lady Geckos’ performance, “I like to see that my [middle school] girls still scored a perfect score for the first meet!”

The next qualifier is Saturday, Sept. 14, hosted by Run

Saipan at the American Memorial Park; the SIS Gecko 5000 at Banzai Cliff is on Sept. 28; the ISA Invitational with the location to be determined is on Oct. 5; and the championship is set for Oct. 12 at the Saipan Country Club at Saipan Vegas.

Results of the 9U and 12U elementary school divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	82	61	.573	—
Baltimore	82	62	.569	½
Boston	72	71	.503	10
Tampa Bay	71	72	.497	11
Toronto	68	76	.472	14½
Central Division				
Cleveland	81	62	.566	—
Kansas City	79	65	.549	2½
Minnesota	76	67	.531	5
Detroit	73	71	.507	8½
Chicago	33	111	.229	48½
West Division				
Houston	77	66	.538	—
Seattle	73	71	.507	4½
Texas	70	74	.486	7½
Oakland	62	82	.431	15½
Los Angeles	59	84	.413	18
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	85	58	.594	—
Atlanta	78	65	.545	7
New York	78	65	.545	7
Washington	64	79	.448	21
Miami	54	89	.378	31
Central Division				
Milwaukee	82	61	.573	—
Chicago	73	70	.510	9
St. Louis	72	71	.503	10
Cincinnati	69	75	.479	13½
Pittsburgh	67	76	.469	15
West Division				
Los Angeles	86	57	.601	—
San Diego	81	64	.559	6
Arizona	80	64	.556	6½
San Francisco	71	73	.493	15½
Colorado	54	90	.375	32½

NFL STANDINGS						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	34	28
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	20	17
New England	1	0	0	1.000	16	10
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	.000	0	0
South						
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	29	27
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	27	29
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	17	20
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	17	24
North						
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	18	10
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	20	27
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	10	16
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	17	33
West						
Kansas City	1	0	0	1.000	27	20
L.A. Chargers	1	0	0	1.000	22	10
Denver	0	1	0	.000	20	26
Las Vegas	0	1	0	.000	10	22
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	33	17
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	34	29
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	6	28
Washington	0	1	0	.000	20	37
South						
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	47	10
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	37	20
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	10	18
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	10	47
North						
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	24	17
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	26	20
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	28	6
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	29	34
West						
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	26	20
San Francisco	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	28	34
L.A. Rams	0	1	0	.000	20	26

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





**Steelers get past Falcons on Boswell's six field goals**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Sinner beats Fritz in men's final just weeks after his doping exoneration**  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Masaki victorious in return to MMA

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI's Masaki Kitami was triumphant in his return to mixed martial arts after beating his opponent in the DEEP Tokyo Impact 2024 4th Round MMA event last Sunday in New Pier Hall, Tokyo, Japan.

In the strawweight division, the 24-year-old faced off against Felipe Haseyama and won by judge's decision, 3-0. The bout lasted for two rounds and three minutes as Kitami let his punches fly and beat down Haseyama.

Kitami first fought in the ring six years ago and lost, then came back with a hunger to win—which he did.



Masaki Kitami delivers blows to opponent Felipe Haseyama as he has the upper hand during their strawweight bout in the DEEP Tokyo Impact 2024 4th Round MMA event last Sunday in New Pier Hall, Tokyo, Japan.

The 52-kg fighter said he trained for three months and is looking forward to his next fight in the same event this December.

On his comeback in the ring after six years, he said, "It feels nerve racking but I tried to stay calm and pound out my opponent slowly."

With his win, he said, "I feel blessed to win but [there are] more things to learn from now on. One thing I'm more blessed and thankful for is to still have people back home that support me in everything I do in life. Without them I wouldn't be able to do these things!"

Kitami also competed in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and won gold last June in the white belt Gi roosterweight division of the 2024 Marianas Pro Korea Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Tournament in Seoul, South Korea.

Before that, he won gold in See MASAKI on Page 15



Masaki Kitami holds up the CNMI flag before his bout in the DEEP Tokyo Impact 2024 4th Round MMA event last Sunday in New Pier Hall, Tokyo, Japan.

## Fitial's KO loss to Collier gets fight of the night



The CNMI's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, left, poses with Jake "The Prototype" Collier before their heavyweight title match in Shamrock FC 357 at the Ameristar Casino in St. Charles, Missouri last Saturday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
delatorreferdie@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Jake "The Prototype" Collier knocked out the CNMI's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial with a strong left straight on the face in the first round to win

in their heavyweight title match in Shamrock FC 357 at the Ameristar Casino in St. Charles, Missouri last Saturday.

Despite the loss, Fitial's action-packed and no-holds barred See FITIAL on Page 15

## DMS, SIS shine in x-country



14U middle school cross-country runners run out of the starting line of the two-mile course in the first PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025 qualifier at the CPA Airport Field last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Dandan Middle School Totots and Saipan International School Lady Geckos shone as bright as the Saturday morning sun with their win in the 14U middle school divisions of the first PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier at the CPA Airport Field.



In the boys division, the Totots flew to first place with a total of 14 points; SIS claimed second with 23 points; Agape Christian School Torchbearers were third at 38 points; and fourth was Cha Cha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus with 54 points.

The Lady Geckos topped the girls division with a perfect 10 points; second was DMS with

41 points; third was the Lady Torchbearers with 51; and last was Grace Christian Academy Eagles with 55 points.

Cross-country is similar to golf in that the lowest score wins.

In the individual standings, Top 3 in the boys division were DMS' Yuxi Lu who came in at 14:19. Second was Lucas Yang of ACS at 14:36, and third went to SIS' Eunchan Ko with a time of 14:54.

Top 3 in the girls division were Saipan Community School's Alyssa Brasuell with a time of 15:21; second was SIS' Faith Arriola at 15:54; and third was SIS' Scarlett Burnell at 16:01.

Lu, in an interview after the race, said that the course was "alright for me. I was able to keep up and finish everything." From the beginning of the race, he led the pack and stayed there until the end.

In his second year of cross-country, he said, "It was great. It was a challenge and it was fun." As for coming in first, he said, "I feel amazing. I feel much better than last year and it feels good

See DMS on Page 15



14U middle school boys division first place Dandan Middle School's Yuxi Lu runs into the finish line of the first PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025 qualifier at the CPA Airport Field last Saturday.



14U middle school girls division first place Saipan Community School's Alyssa Brasuell runs into the finish line of the first PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025 qualifier at the CPA Airport Field last Saturday.